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## BRITISH AMERICA.

THE New York correspondent of the *Times*, one of the strongest partisans of the American Confederate Government, announced in a recent letter that the Southern leaders were about to propose to the North an alliance, for the purpose of conquering Mexico and Canada. At the present moment no such proposal is likely to be accepted, as, in the first place, the Northern politicians still believe, or affect to believe, that they are gradually reducing the South to subjection, and refuse to treat on any basis except that of unconditional surrender. Nor is it to be credited that, immediately after fighting with one another, yet without bringing their quarrel to any definite conclusion, the combatants would separate, one to invade the territory of a State which is under the protection of France and Austria, the other to attack and attempt to annex the North American colonies of Great Britain. Civilised man cannot live by war alone; and one would think that both North and South would be glad of a little rest, and that each would have enough to do in seeking to heal the terrible wounds that each has received during one of the most murderous conflicts that the world has ever seen.

With Southern projects we have nothing to do; and if it should please the Confederate leaders to raise the Mexicans against their new patrons, with the view of making Mexico in the end a portion of the Southern Confederation, England could look on unconcerned. But, in spite of theories of non-intervention, no theory has yet been advanced which would render it incompetent for England to intervene on behalf of her own colonies, if they happened to be invaded; and, though the Northern Americans might not care to engage in another long and ruinous war in order to gain possession of Canada, yet they might, and in all probability would, make the attempt if there were a fair prospect of its being attended with easy

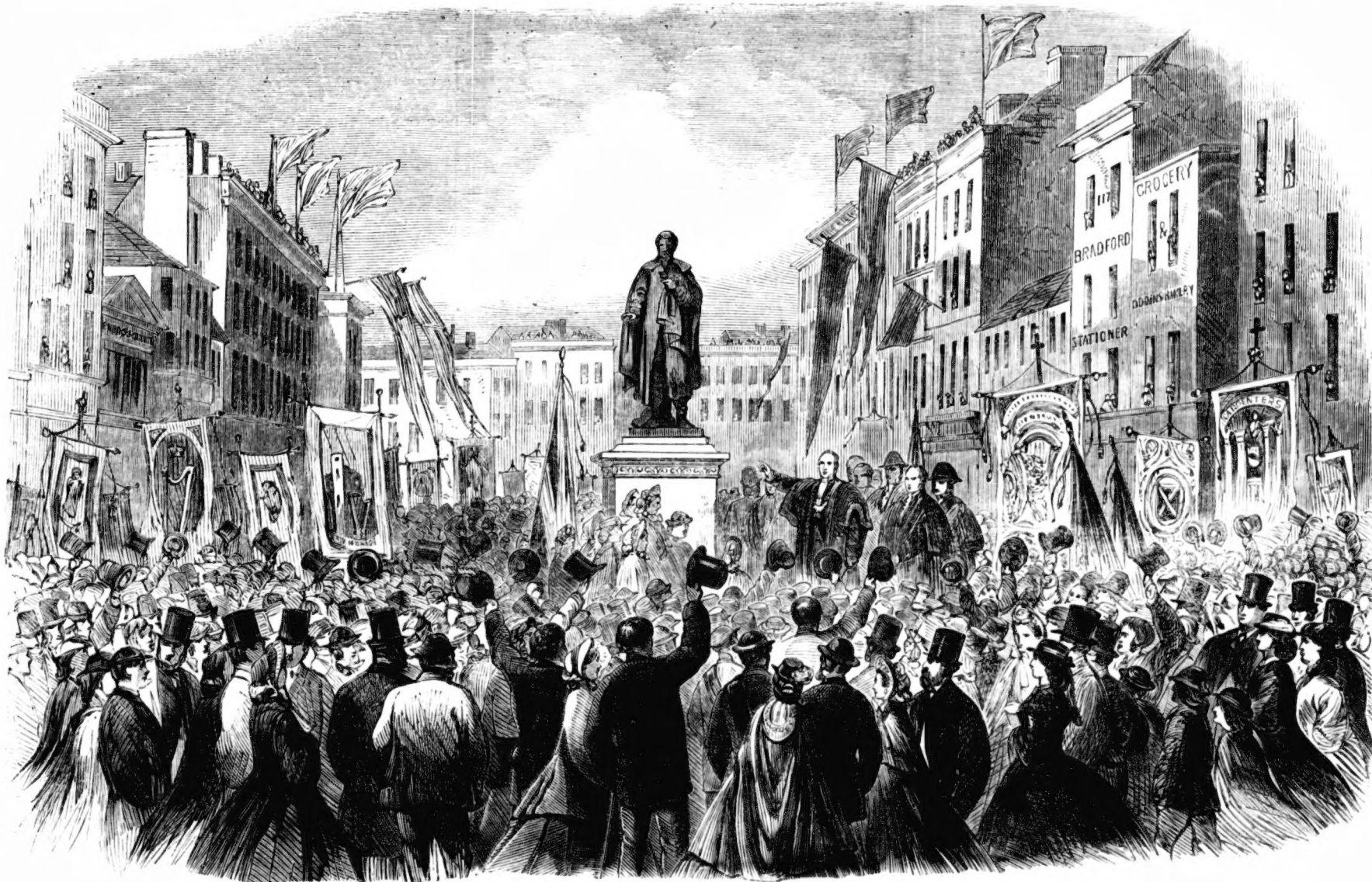
success. No one, except a few persistent fanatics, believes now in the non-aggressive character of democratic republics. The Yankees are fully as aggressive as the Russians; and, though they have not a shadow of claim to Canada, the Canadians are already quite convinced that nothing will deter them from invading it except the evident determination and ability of the population to resist and drive back the invasion.

In the meanwhile, we look upon it as certain that Upper and Lower Canadians, Nova Scotians, and New Brunswickers will all be able to protect themselves against the common enemy if all will hold together; and it appears by the latest news that the scheme for uniting the various provinces of British North America under a single Government is making favourable progress, and, as the meeting of colonial Governors on the subject proves, has obtained the full concurrence of the home authorities. This British-American confederacy cannot, of course, be formed without some little difficulty. No agreement that is worth making can be effected without preliminary discussion; and the bargain which it is proposed our North American colonies should strike has not, like other bargains, two sides to it, but three. Upper and Lower Canada have to be more intimately united than they are at present, and to United Canada are to be joined the provinces of the seacoast. Before the confederacy can exist as such, a triple arrangement must be made; and if Upper and Lower Canada cannot be brought to terms, the desires of the maritime group for political union with the inland country will avail nothing. Hitherto, however, the delegates on all sides have shown a moderate and conciliatory spirit, and there is every reason to hope that the Canadian question and the question of the general union may be solved at one and the same time. The united provinces would then have a population of four millions, with excellent harbours, and one of the finest rivers in the world. It has

been calculated that the number of their fighting men, or at least of their male population capable of bearing arms (which comes to much the same thing if our American colonies are really determined to defend themselves), would amount to half a million; and in presence of such an army as this, assisted as it would be by a certain number of British troops and by a considerable force of artillery such as might easily be spared from the mother country, the Yankees would certainly hesitate before attempting any rash incursion.

If, as we trust it may be, this project of confederation is successfully carried out, Canada will profit by it in a military point of view; but the immediate advantage gained by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be chiefly of a commercial kind. There is no fear of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick being attacked until after Canada has been overrun; and the Federal Americans might invade, and by the united efforts of the inhabitants and of the English be repulsed from, Canada without the other provinces of British America being interfered with at all. But, on the other hand, the immense exports and imports of Canada pass at present through the seaports of Federal America; and the British coast-provinces would give much to be able to draw this traffic to themselves. An intercolonial railway has long been projected, which would connect Canada with British-American ports. By the existence of such a line Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would especially benefit, though it would at the same time strengthen the whole confederation and give new facilities to England for sending troops to take part in its defence.

One of the New York papers expresses a confident opinion that the French Canadians will never approve of the proposed change. It is remarkable, indeed, that when the American provinces colonised by Englishmen revolted and formed the United States republic, Canada, which from a French pos-



UNCOVERING THE STATUE OF FATHER MATHEW AT CORK.—(FROM A SKETCH BY R. J. STOPFORD.)



session had become an English one by right of conquest alone, should have remained faithful to the English Crown. The French Canadians are supposed to be attached not to England as an English country, but to England as a monarchy; and under the species of republic which it is now proposed to establish in British America they fear, no doubt, that some of their ancient privileges would be lost, while their influence would certainly be diminished. This is a difficulty of which we shall hear more when the Canadian Legislature meets. In the meanwhile, if the French Canadians understand that the time has come for them to choose between being absorbed by Yankee or by British American, we fancy that the latter fate, especially as it would be neither a violent nor, in reality, a disadvantageous one, would be selected as the more tolerable of the two.

#### UNCOVERING THE MATHEW STATUE AT CORK.

IN our last week's Number we published some account of the uncovering of the statue of Father Mathew, at Cork; and this week we give an Engraving depicting the ceremonial. It may truly be said that, if any man ever earned a perpetual memory in his city and country, Father Mathew deserved the statue which has just been erected in the city where he laboured so long and so successfully. He was a greater benefactor to Ireland than all its so-called liberators and patriots combined, and Cork was at once the origin and the head-quarters of his work and his final resting-place. If he had never been known as the Apostle of Temperance, Cork could hardly have forgotten him. He had worked for something like twenty years among the poorest and most degraded of the population, and his influence was firmly established throughout the city long before the memorable evening on which he signed the pledge with the characteristic words, "Here goes, in the name of God!" His perfect charity, his free and open earnestness, his simplicity and truth as a preacher, had won him affection and obedience; and when he joined the temperance movement he carried to it an influence which had been hardly and laboriously earned. Of the immense benefits which he conferred on his country when he threw himself into that cause it is sufficient to say that in three years the consumption of spirits in Ireland had diminished by one half. From being over 12,000,000 gallons in 1839 it had sunk in 1842 to less than six millions and a half. Of this benefit Cork must have received a larger share than any other city or neighbourhood. There the new work began, and there it continued even to Father Mathew's death; for, on his deathbed, when he was barely sensible, men knelt at his bedside to repeat the pledge, and received from his hands the sign of the cross on their foreheads. His memory appears not to have lost its charm over the population of his city. Fifty thousand people crowded into the streets to witness the procession which preceded the inauguration of the statue; yet there was not a single policeman to be seen on duty through the town, and there was not a single instance of disorderly conduct. Many women, even with children in their arms, and mothers with infants at the breast, were to be seen in the crowd. The Corporation, all the trades of the city, and the friendly societies joined in the procession. In short, the whole city seems to have gone out to celebrate the memory of their friend and see his features once more. Nothing could be a more appropriate tribute to his memory or a more fitting inauguration of his statue than this universal yet temperate enthusiasm—this spectacle of the whole population of his adopted city forming one united and orderly multitude, animated by one generous impulse. What other memory or what other principle or object would unite the population of any Irish town in a similar demonstration?

### Foreign Intelligence.

#### FRANCE.

In the absence of any home novelty, political or social, the Parisian public are turning their attention to their neighbours' affairs, and especially to those of Italy, and all sorts of disquieting rumours are current in Paris respecting the probable effects of the new Convention on the Italian Government. Serious disturbances are apprehended, and even revolution is hinted at, when the time arrives for the transference of the capital. A protest has been entered against the appropriation of Florence as a capital for Italy by its former Sovereign, the ex-Grand Duke of Tuscany. The Papal Nuncio in Paris is understood to have communicated a note to the French Government from Cardinal Antonelli. The note in question is merely an acknowledgment of the receipt of the Convention, and abstains from any sort of reply. It is said that the Italian Convention is to be supported in the French Senate by no less a personage than the Archbishop of Paris, who is to make his maiden speech on the occasion.

Favourable accounts have been received by the Government from Algeria. General Jolivet has taken his revenge on Si Lala and entirely defeated him. Several tribes have since made their submission.

#### SPAIN.

A circular has been issued by Senor Gonzalez Bravo, Minister of the Interior, relative to the elections, which recommends the Governors of the provinces in every measure to strictly observe the law. The Minister states also that electoral rights are to be exercised with the most entire liberty. A meeting of 300 Progressistas has been held under the presidency of Senor Olozaga, at which a central committee was appointed, including among its members General Espartero, Senor Olozaga and Madoz, and General Prim.

#### ITALY.

General La Marmora has addressed a circular to the foreign Courts explaining the contents of the Franco-Italian Convention and of the protocols annexed to it. The note maintains, it is stated, a firm attitude with regard to Rome, and declares that, while the Italian nation desires to be reconciled with the Papacy, it cannot ignore the principle that the people of Rome have a right to select their own form of government. The electoral colleges have re-elected the Ministers, Della Marmora, Lanza, Petitti, and Sella. The electors of Castel-Maggiore have returned the Marquis Pepoli as member to Parliament.

A Turin journal of some authority on the subject denies that any actual disarmament is about to take place. Soldiers may be released on furlough, but the strength of the army will not be diminished. The regimental lists will remain unaltered, and the men can be summoned under arms in a few days if any emergency should arise.

#### SWITZERLAND.

Some disturbances appear again to have taken place in Geneva. After the election of M. Friedrich, the independent candidate, to the National Council, a conflict took place in the evening between the adverse political partisans.

#### GREECE.

Stormy debates have taken place in the Greek Chambers, the Opposition keeping up a vigorous agitation. A bill introducing universal suffrage has been voted. An unsuccessful attempt was made on the 11th inst. to assassinate the Minister of the Interior.

#### GERMANY AND DENMARK.

There appears to be a hitch in the conclusion of the treaty of peace between Germany and Denmark. It was to have been signed at Vienna on Tuesday, but a telegram informs us that the event was postponed in consequence of some financial questions remaining still to be arranged.

#### BRAZIL.

We have very serious news from Brazil. The great banking firm of Souto, at Rio, has failed for a large amount, leading to the failure

of several other firms; and the commercial crisis was so severe that the Government had decreed the suspension of cash payments by the banks. War had been declared between Brazil and Uruguay.

#### PERU.

Peru has resolved, according to advices received at New York, in the event of Spain refusing to give up the Chincha Islands, which she has so arbitrarily taken possession of, to make a declaration of war against that country.

#### MEXICO.

The New York papers state that Miramon, in the absence of the Emperor Maximilian from that capital, had rebelled, and, aided by the Archbishop, obtained possession of one half the city. The statement is a very doubtful one.

#### JAPAN.

There seems great probability of a renewal of hostilities with Japan. The combined English, French, and Dutch fleets were preparing, at the date of our last advices, to enter the Straits of Simonsaki; and the Japanese, it was thought, would oppose the movement, and for that purpose had greatly strengthened the forts of Nagato.

#### AUSTRALIA.

In Australia the transportation question was absorbing public attention, to the exclusion of everything else. The reply of the Colonial Secretary, announcing that transportation to Western Australia would be persisted in, had caused the greatest dissatisfaction at Melbourne, and a course of constitutional resistance was threatened.

#### INDIA.

From India we learn that Bhootan is to be attacked. After every effort to secure the submission of the Bhootanese, or some amende for their barbarous treatment of the British Minister, has proved abortive, orders have been issued by the Government of India for the formation of such a force as will soon bring them to reason.

### THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

#### OPERATIONS IN VIRGINIA.

Our intelligence from New York, which is to the evening of the 8th instant, brings details of the operations in the neighbourhood of Richmond and Petersburg, previously mentioned.

On the 29th ult. General Birney started with two army corps from the camp of Butler at Bermuda, and crossed the James River on pontoons to the neighbourhood of Deep Bottom, on the north side. The point chosen for crossing was not the same as that selected in a previous adventure of the kind. It was above instead of below Four-mile Creek, and in the angle of the second of the three great bends which the James River makes above City Point. The Federals marched with but little opposition to a distance of about six miles from Richmond, along the Newmarket-road. On the way they captured several redoubts and earthworks, but at this point the road was commanded by two forts of a formidable kind. The fort of Laurel Hill was several times assaulted without success, and with terrible loss to the storming parties. The 10th Corps is admitted to have lost 1500 men at this place. This is exclusive of the loss of two whole negro regiments. The blacks are said to have greatly distinguished themselves in several skirmishes and assaults on the road. To reward these poor wretches for their services, 2000 of them were sent as a forlorn hope against the works at Laurel Hill. The negroes seem to have jumped en masse into a wide ditch, ten feet deep, which was in front of the fort. Those that struggled up the bank were shot down; the remainder were blown to pieces by hand-grenades thrown down into the writhing mass by the defenders of the earthwork. Scarcely one escaped.

On the morning of the 30th five divisions of the 5th and 9th Corps, under General Meade, advanced from the line of the Weldon Railroad, and, after a sharp engagement, captured the first line of the intrenchments of the Confederates, who fell back half a mile to a stronger line of works. This position was then attacked by the Federals and some very desperate fighting ensued, during which the Federals sustained more severe losses than were at first reported. The Confederates charged suddenly through a gap between the 5th and 9th Corps, and flanked the first division of the 9th Corps, capturing from 1000 to 1200 prisoners, the entire Federal loss being estimated at upwards of 2000. The Confederates lost lightly, as they fought mostly behind breastworks. It being ascertained that the position could only be carried at a fearful loss of life, it was determined not to assault it, and the troops fell back to the line they had captured, and strongly intrenched themselves. On the afternoon of the following day, Oct. 1, the Confederates attacked Ayre's division, but were handsomely repulsed. This, and a demonstration against Gregg's cavalry on the Vaughan road, to the left of the 2nd Corps, by Wade Hampton's cavalry, which was also repulsed, constituted the entire operations of the day. On the morning of the 2nd the Confederates in front of the 9th Corps fell back to their main line, and a division was thrown forward to develop its strength. The result of the reconnaissance was that it was deemed inadvisable to attack the position, and the troops were withdrawn.

The Federal losses north of the James were between 2000 and 3000; among whom were General Ord, wounded; General Burnham, killed; and many staff and line officers. An equal number were lost in the conflicts to the south-west of Petersburg. A shell grazed General Meade's leg and buried itself in the ground in the midst of Generals Humphrey, Bartley, and Griffin.

Secretary Stanton reports a series of skirmishes at Deep Bottom on the 7th, attended with considerable loss in artillery to the Federals, and many killed and wounded upon both sides, but no decisive advantage to either.

General Sheridan was at Harrisonburg, his advance being opposed by General Early, and his supplies and communications interrupted by the Confederate guerrillas. Longstreet is asserted to have joined Early with 20,000 troops, and to have assumed the command.

The Federals, under Burbridge, had attacked Saltville, Western Virginia, and been badly repulsed, retreating in confusion, pursued by the Confederates.

Grant had ordered the Shenandoah Valley to be utterly devastated, the crops to be destroyed, the houses of the farmers to be demolished, and their stock to be carried off.

#### THE CAMPAIGN IN GEORGIA.

The Confederates continued their operations in Sherman's rear. General Forrest's forces destroyed portions of the railway between Chattanooga and Atlanta on the 4th inst., and captured Big Shanty. On the 5th they attacked Atlanta, but retired after a severe fight, in which they are stated to have lost heavily in killed and wounded. The Federals state their own loss at 300, and that of the Confederates at 500. Other accounts say that the Confederates engaged in this affair were a division of Hood's army, who, the Southern papers state, had moved his force thirty-five miles westward without molestation.

General Thomas had been sent to Nashville by General Sherman to take charge of the Federal forces there and to watch General Forrest.

#### OPERATIONS IN MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS.

General Price continued his operations in Missouri. Five thousand recruits from that State are asserted to have already joined him, and Federal conscripts hourly desert to his ranks. A portion of his forces were threatening Rolla, while Price himself was moving upon Jefferson City, the capital of the State, before which a part of his troops had appeared.

A large force, under Magruder and Kirby Smith, was reported to have entered Arkansas, and to be preparing for a combined movement against Little Rock and the capture of General Steele and his army. If successful, it was believed that they would combine with General Price, attack St. Louis, and proclaim the annexation of Missouri to the Southern Confederacy.

#### GENERAL NEWS.

The presidential contest in the North was becoming more embittered as the time of the election approached. Mass meetings were being everywhere held, at many of which serious disturbances

had taken place. In Cincinnati the soldiers had interrupted a meeting, and a serious riot was said to have ensued—for reporting which, with comments, the only Democratic paper in Maryland, the *Baltimore Evening Post*, had been suppressed by the military authorities, who, however, allege that they did so to prevent the soldiers in the city from sacking the office of the journal.

Several banking houses in Chicago which have been engaged in speculations in grain and produce had failed in consequence of the heavy decline in prices. Crowds gathered around the banks, and were dispersed by the military.

In accordance with a resolution passed by Convention, the (Federal) Governor of Tennessee had issued an order that all persons voting in the presidential election must swear to oppose an armistice and peace negotiations with armed rebels until constitutional laws and constitutional proclamations are re-established throughout the States. The Governor had also conscripted white men and negroes between eighteen and forty-five years of age.

The Governor of Georgia had declined Sherman's proposition for an informal peace conference.

President Davis had been making a tour in Alabama and Georgia, and had delivered several speeches. In one of these addresses, reported by the *Macon Telegraph*, Mr. Davis is represented as asserting that Sherman will be compelled to re-enact the retreat of Moscow; that the independence of the South would be established, and the enemy defeated, if half the absent troops returned to their duty. The Southern press is dissatisfied with the speech, and doubts its authenticity. In others of his speeches Mr. Davis admitted the gravity of the present position of the Confederacy, and, while not undervaluing the importance of recent reverses, encouraged the people to persevere, and called upon them not to despond or doubt of ultimate success.

Admiral Farragut was still in Mobile Bay, but had not captured the city, as reported; neither had he approached any nearer to it.

### TRANSPORTATION TO AUSTRALIA.

THE following minute submitted by the Victorian Cabinet to his Excellency Sir Charles Darling, has been published in the daily papers:—

The copy of Mr. Cardwell's despatch, in reply to the resolutions of both Houses of Parliament against the continuance of transportation to Western Australia, which your Excellency did me the honour to transmit to me, has been duly laid before my colleagues.

It is to the Government of this colony matter of the utmost regret that all efforts made by them, the Parliament, and the people of Victoria, in common with the other colonies, have failed to secure that measure of justice the colonists had a right to expect; but the decision of her Majesty's Government is still more deeply to be deplored as at direct variance with the statement made by the Duke of Newcastle in 1853, and in contravention of the policy which it was declared by his Grace to be the duty of her Majesty's Government to adopt towards the Australian colonies.

In the concluding paragraph of a minute which I had the honour to submit to your Excellency in September last, I felt it necessary to indicate the course this Government would be forced to pursue in the event of the threatened continuance of transportation being carried out; and it now becomes my duty to state to your Excellency the steps which your advisers have felt it imperative upon them to take in the discharge of their responsibility to the people of this colony.

Upon a careful consideration of Mr. Cardwell's despatch, written in the face of all the earnest representations addressed to her Majesty's Government, it has been forced upon the attention of myself and my colleagues that further remonstrance is in itself useless, and that the time has arrived when it is incumbent upon us, in the exercise of our powers of self-government, to initiate legislation in connection with the colonies whose interests are alike affected for our common protection.

I have accordingly addressed a circular to the Chief Secretary of each of the colonies interested, inviting the co-operation of their respective Governments in framing a measure to be submitted to the consideration of the several Parliaments, prohibitive of all intercourse whatsoever with Western Australia, in order that her position as the only convict colony in Australia may be distinctly marked.

Sufficient time has not yet elapsed for me to have received any reply; but from the universal feeling of dissatisfaction which prevails throughout the free colonies I can have no doubt that the proposition will meet with their approval.

Intimately connected with this proposition is the question of the postal service with Great Britain. No measure for the isolation of Western Australia could be efficient while the mail-steamer continue to call at King George's Sound; and, although serious inconvenience must result from any interruption to frequent and regular postal communication, so satisfied is the Government that the people of Victoria, in the dread of the continuance of transportation, would deny themselves the privilege of the mail service rather than be exposed even to the possibility of the introduction of convicts, that I have to beg your Excellency will be pleased to notify formally to the Imperial authorities that unless the terms of the existing arrangement with the Peninsular and Oriental Company be altered, and the company consent that their packets shall not touch at any port in Western Australia, the Government of Victoria will, at the expiration of six months from the 1st of November next, cease to contribute to the annual subsidy; and further, that they withdraw their offer to join in establishing a fortnightly service, except upon similar conditions.

I cannot express to your Excellency the pain your advisers have felt in being obliged to take this course; but to have hesitated would have been to neglect their highest duty.

In requesting that your Excellency will forward a copy of this memorandum to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I would venture to suggest that it be accompanied by your Excellency's testimony to the reality of the feelings of the people of Victoria, as made known by memorials and through the public press; and also to the discontent which has manifested itself throughout the colony at the decision of her Majesty's Government.

Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, Aug. 24.

JAMES McCULLOCH.

### DEATH OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

THE Duke of Newcastle died on Tuesday evening, at a quarter to seven o'clock, at Clumber Park.

The late Duke, Henry Pelham Clinton, Lord Lincoln by courtesy, was born in 1811. At Eton and Christ Church he manifested the sound, substantial, but not brilliant, quality of mind which made him for thirty years one of the most useful of public servants. He was a remarkable illustration of the operation of the moral on the intellectual nature. It was his conscientious activity, his moral energy, that set his faculties to work, at all times, and wherever he went; and it was his personal disinterestedness, his public spirit, his power of subordinating his own feelings to other people's interests which enabled him to keep his faculties at work, in defiance of discouragements which would have daunted many a man of higher original capacity. It was probably on account of these moral qualities that Sir Robert Peel adopted Lord Lincoln, as he did Sidney Herbert, into his political band. The young man entered upon office at three-and-twenty, on the first opportunity that occurred. He was made a Lord of the Treasury during the short administration of Sir R. Peel, from December, 1834, to the next April. He had then been in Parliament two years, sitting for South Nottingham. During the interval till the return of Peel to power in September, 1841, Lord Lincoln won upon the expectation of the House and the notice of the country, so that when his opportunity arrived he scarcely answered to the idea formed of him. His ability and his reach of political view were as yet in no proportion to his activity and readiness; and that activity and readiness were easily mistaken for self-sufficiency in a man yet so young.

In January, 1846, he seemed to have obtained scope to show what he could do in real statesmanship. He became Chief Secretary for Ireland; but the Ministry went out in July, on the discomfiture of their Coercion Bill for Ireland. During the five years more that he remained in the Commons, as member for the Falkirk boroughs, because his father spoiled his chances in his own county of Nottingham, he was one of Peel's most trusted lieutenants, and one of the securities that a Peel party should exist, which, however small in numbers, should compensate by its character for some of the dangers attending the disintegration of parties which the policy of its chief had necessarily effected. From time to time Lord Lincoln showed that he was not idle, though in opposition, and, as all the world knew, unhappy in the domestic relations in which, of all men, he seemed the most likely to deserve and obtain happiness. His marriage in 1832 had issued in great misery, and he obtained a divorce in 1850. His father's treatment of him was the world's wonder for hardness and absurdity



of wrath, considering that the ground of parental displeasure was merely difference of political opinion. Lord Lincoln worked away at such work as he could find or make, keeping silence on his filial injuries—about which, indeed, the Duke took care that the public should be sufficiently informed by himself. One of the ablest speeches made by Lord Lincoln in this interval was in 1847, on emigration from Ireland as a means of relief during and after the famine, and the disorganisation of affairs which it must occasion.

At the beginning of 1851 Lord Lincoln succeeded to the dukedom, and left the House of Parliament in which he had built up the groundwork of the general expectation of good service from him. The next year introduced him at last to such office as would show what he could do. He became Colonial Secretary under Lord Aberdeen at the close of 1852—little imagining what responsibilities and labours he was undertaking. The charge and government of half a hundred colonies has long been considered an absurdly onerous task for one member of an administration; but to this was in those days added the virtual management of war in its distant operation. When war with Russia was declared, in March, 1854, the Duke was relieved of his colonial duties, which were undertaken by Sir George Grey, and the new secretaryship for war was filled by the Duke. We all remember but too well what followed—the suffering and mortality among our troops in the East, and the too natural popular impression that the War Ministers must be to blame, and the wrath, and cavil, and ostentatious disparagement with which those two men—the Duke and his friend Sidney Herbert—were treated while they were working their frames and faculties day and night as few men have worked before, and effecting achievements in the mere neutralising of other men's blunders and deficiencies, which from another point of view would have excited admiration and gratitude. It was not their fault that our soldiers suffered and died; and it was their doing that many more did not perish.

The Duke joined Lord Palmerston's Cabinet in June, 1859, in the midst of the excitement of the Italian War. He was again Colonial Secretary, as he was till his final resignation. It was in this capacity that he was naturally chosen to attend the Prince of Wales in his Canadian travels; but, apart from that particular fitness, he was the very man to discharge the office of temporary guardian in so responsible a case.

Those who were personally acquainted with the Duke of Newcastle must ever feel that the impression he made on them was more peculiar than can be easily accounted for from his type of character, and yet those who did not know him may truly believe that with the mind's eye they see him very much as he was. Frank, honest, unassuming, with a genuine sense of human equality always overriding any consciousness—or rather remembrance—of his rank, hereditary or official, he was easy to know and to understand from afar. Those who were nearest to him were subject to frequent surprises from his simplicity, his unconcealable conscientiousness, and his abiding sense of fellowship with all sincere people, whoever they might be. As a nobleman of aristocratic England he was in this way a great blessing and a singularly useful example. When we think of his candour in his place in Parliament, his diligence, and ever-growing knowledge, and practised sense in his department, and the national confidence he had thus won, we feel that the public loss is irreparable. He never was and never would have been a great political philosopher, or sage, or leader. That was not in his line. But while we need no less a staunch upholder of the natural and honourable welfare of our country, a patriotic promoter of its dignity and lustre, and a devoted servant of the commonwealth, from the Sovereign on the throne to the poorest adventurer landing in a distant colony, we shall miss and mourn the late Duke of Newcastle, and anxiously watch the rising generation of "the governing classes" to see if we may hope for more men like him.

#### NORTH LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

THE interesting exhibition which was on Monday inaugurated with fitting solemnity by Earl Russell at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, exhibits a marked and gratifying stage of progress, as compared with the first attempt of the industrial classes at Lambeth to present to the public a collection of the results of their labours sufficiently good to attract general attention. In numbers the articles exhibited were far in excess of the previous show, and in every branch of mechanical ingenuity, and even in some daring attempts to invade the realms of higher art, the working men of North London have exhibited a laudable anxiety to produce something which should justify the high rank which they claim and take amongst the artisans of the world.

The story of the origin and growth of this remarkable exhibition is simple enough. In April last some half dozen working men discussed the propriety of holding a Clerkenwell Exhibition. A public meeting followed, which attracted applications for participation from various other London districts, and the result was the organisation of the present exhibition, subject, however, to the important contingency of finding amongst the wealthier classes persons of sufficient public spirit and of sympathy with the working classes to guarantee the necessary expenses. Guarantors were not slow in coming forward for the modest sum (£350) required, and the names of the Earl of Shaftesbury, Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Miss Burdett Coutts, Mr. W. H. Bodkin, Mr. Samuel Morley, Alderman Lusk, Mr. Thomas Winkworth, Mr. Nicholay, and several other gentlemen, removed all feelings of uneasiness as to the pecuniary results of the undertaking.

It was at first proposed to hold the exhibition in one of the smaller rooms of the Agricultural Hall; but so numerous did the applications of exhibitors pour in that an appeal had to be made to the directors, who at once and in the most liberal manner placed the large hall at the disposal of the committee. These preliminary difficulties having been overcome, a term of four months was found sufficient to mature everything, to "put the right thing in the right place," and to arrange the exhibition in the manner in which it was thrown open to the public on Monday.

Previous to the ceremonial inauguration a private view was permitted, when we were agreeably surprised to find an exhibition of nearly nine hundred articles of the most varied description, and all deeply suggestive and interesting as showing the bent of the working man's mind and the sort of labour in which he by choice occupies his leisure hours. It is said that human nature is fond of paradox, and one remarkable feature of the exhibition is the wide difference which its specimens indicate between the man's natural tastes and the occupation by which he gets his living. A whole side-wall is covered with oil-paintings, water colours, and drawings in chalk, and it almost provokes a smile to find that they are nearly all the productions of men engaged in the most incongruous occupations. A whole compartment is occupied with the gallery of a porkbutcher in Hoxton, and a very curious gallery it is, one which we are sure Sir E. Landseer or Mr. Macleise would look at with a great deal of curiosity and interest. The artist, although probably never having seen a Dutch painting, is a devoted disciple of the Dutch school, and composes entirely after the Dutch manner. There are village merry-makings, boozing drinking, cobbler at work, and misers counting their money, and the amount of character that is infused into these rude attempts, painted as they are in entire ignorance of the most elementary rules of art, is absolutely surprising. There is one small picture in this compartment of a cobbler at work which is really of considerable merit—with a little brown varnish and a reasonable seasoning of smoke it would cut a very respectable figure in a West-end catalogue. In another compartment is a very ambitious oil-painting, the work of a postman—the subject being "The Murder of William Rufus in the New Forest." The trees, skies, and forest glade are exceedingly well done, much better than the figures; but the whole is a surprising attempt, and what makes it more interesting is that the artist has hung up immediately under it his first attempt in oil, so that the spectator may see at a glance how hard he must have worked, and how genuine his zeal for art must have been, to have enabled him, unassisted, to make such progress as the second picture exhibits. A

Mr. Concanen exhibits some exceedingly beautiful landscapes in chalk; but, if we remember rightly, this gentleman was an exhibitor at Kensington in 1862, and his works then attracted much and favourable notice.

Passing from the artists to the mechanics, who have filled the centre with their models, we find a watch-finisher's apprentice sending in a beam steam-engine, and others, models of ships, houses, cottages, mansions, churches, chapels, prisons, and fortresses. The working men seem, in fact, to delight in the construction of these elaborate toys, and exhibit various degrees of taste in their decoration. A manuscript magazine, containing the essays of the Barbican Mutual Improvement Society, will be a tract of rare value some centuries hence; and besides this will be found ivory turned out of the solid piece in the cleverest manner, original drawings, and methods for improving almost every article of household necessity. We noticed a highly-finished model in polished steel of a breech-loading cannon, but as a general rule the British workman does not seem inclined to waste his ingenuity in the making of implements of destruction. The exhibition is divided into eight classes—namely, professional workmanship, amateur productions, inventions and novel contrivances, mechanical models; architectural, marine, and ornamental models; artistic objects, ladies' work of all kinds, and miscellaneous. In addition to the contributions of the workmen themselves, attractive objects have been sent in from various collections. There are numerous precious specimens of art-workmanship from Kensington Museum. Mr. Nicholay sends in his well-known stuffed tigers; and Mr. Benson, of Ludgate-hill, a curious and unique collection of antique watches and clocks—a peculiarly interesting contribution to an exhibition which, it may be said, was created in Clerkenwell. In this rare assortment are two watches, the cases of which are cut from the solid topaz; another, a fine specimen of enamelling, subject, "The Adoration of the Magi"; and another, with a portrait of Charles I. in the lid. The interest of this portion of the exhibition is made perfect by the juxtaposition of some of the finest watches of Mr. Benson's own manufacture—the whole forming a most instructive series of ancient and modern horology.

The hour for the inaugural ceremony was three o'clock, and by that time the vast hall was densely filled with a most respectable audience, attracted by the intimation that Earl Russell was to deliver the inaugural address. His Lordship, although evidently suffering from a severe cold, was punctual to his time, and was received on his entrance with several distinct rounds of cheering. A small platform had been erected in front of the grand orchestra, and on it a chair of state, which was occupied by the noble Earl while the secretary was reading the report. This lengthy document, to which the audience listened with commendable patience, having been disposed of, Earl Russell, attended by the members of the committee, walked round the exhibition, carefully inspecting the various articles, and receiving renewed plaudits from the vast assemblage as he passed slowly along. On his return to the platform the noble Lord took the chair, and proceeded to deliver the inaugural address, in which he commented upon the advantages of such exhibitions, and congratulated the London mechanics on the skill, industry, and ingenuity they had displayed, and said he was proud to be the countryman of such men. A religious service and the singing of an ode composed for the occasion followed, and a vote of thanks to Earl Russell for presiding on the occasion having been given and duly responded to, the inaugural proceedings terminated.

The vast hall was closely crowded with visitors, the majority being of the working classes, and all well dressed. There were probably 6000 persons present, all of whom exhibited a lively interest in the occasion.

In the evening there was a concert, at which a portion of the music at the opening ceremony was repeated. The Exhibition will remain open daily from nine till five, the admittance being 6d.; and in the evening from seven till ten, at 2d. admittance.

#### TURIN AND FLORENCE, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE CAPITAL OF ITALY.

THE kingdom of Italy has just passed through as dangerous and difficult a crisis as any which has befallen it since it became united under one government. As is often the case, the unity which was sufficient to withstand a common danger, and which rose into irresistible might in contending with a common enemy, seemed likely to cease before the apparently insignificant influence of jealousy which was aroused by suspicion. The announcement that by the recent Franco-Italian Convention the capital of the kingdom would be changed from Turin to Florence aroused an excitement which, while it led to a positive insurrection at Turin itself, was not without great influence at Naples and other places, where the people resented not only the new proposition, but the demonstration which the Turinese made against the change of capital.

There can be little wonder, perhaps, that the Southern Italians especially look upon Turin with disfavour as the capital of the kingdom, for it has hitherto been regarded only as the capital of Piedmont, and as standing merely upon the threshold of Italy. Whatever antiquity belongs to the capital of Piedmont is not strictly Italian, and the colder and more precise, but at the same time firmer and more reliable, disposition of the Turinese differ very materially from the temperament of the Neapolitan or the Florentine. This city of fine, regular streets, standing in the midst of a beautifully wooded and well watered plain, is almost entirely modern, and its towers and domes, which strike the traveller as amongst the most imposing in Europe, have but few associations with the past, while such as really exist are but half Italian in their influence.

Its noble libraries, museums, gardens, factories, and public buildings, and the very spacious regularity of its new streets, would in one sense seem to designate it as the capital of a new kingdom which had, by a combination of fresh elements, made from the past a better hope for the future; but it can appeal only to a small section of the people who are called upon to regard it as the metropolis of a country of which it has only recently formed a part. Florence, on the other hand—La Bella Firenze—has a rich heritage of tradition. All its associations are with a past time, when Italy was great and honoured; not so great nor so honoured as she may yet become; but the centre of arts and learning, and the representative of beauty to the world. The birthplace of the most distinguished men in the history of human progress, the names that are on her tombs seem to mark the fair city as the traditional capital of a really famous Italy.

Yet there are still in Florence all the indications of that imperfection which belongs to the past—still, her dirty, narrow streets, her filthy "Jews' quarter," and her wretched houses—as a sordid foil to the magnificent palaces, the gardens, statues, tombs, conservatories, monuments, museums, sculpture, and painting which are still the wonder and the admiration of the world. The truth is that neither Turin nor Florence is the natural or the traditional capital of Italy. It is Rome, and Rome alone, which will ultimately satisfy the people; and nothing but the repeated assurance that Florence is but a temporary resting-place for the seat of Government, which will be ultimately removed to the Imperial City, would have sufficed to allay the excitement and the opposition which has been evoked. Of course, the Republican party have not been idle, and, in common with many more moderate politicians, have declared that to remove the Government to Florence would be but a subterfuge for the abandonment of Rome, or, at least, a means of rendering the desired end impossible of attainment.

The majority of the Turin people certainly never flattered themselves that their city could be erected into a permanent seat of the Italian Government. But there was a knot of stubborn old men, who, without giving utterance to their thoughts, and apparently allowing things to take their own course, wondrous in their heart of hearts what the chapter of accidents might bring about. They saw huge piles of miniatorial buildings rise from the ground; they saw plans laid out for new Houses of Parliament;—every symptom of a disposition on the part of the ruling powers to make themselves at home in their present residence. The town spread out in every

direction: it swelled up to right Royal and metropolitan dimensions; it boasted daily improvements and embellishments; it became as gay and grand a sojourn as its original sins of monotonous dullness and bourgeois character would ever allow. The evil day of a *déménagement* was evidently being put off; perhaps it might be averted altogether.

Nevertheless, the Turin people, like all other Italians, held themselves, and were actually bound, to the national compact which had designated Rome as the only capital of Italy. Whatever mental reserve might lurk in some of the members, there is no doubt but the point put to the vote by Count Cavour upon the subject was settled by a most spontaneous and unanimous acclamation of both Chambers.

Then, again, the geographical and strategical reasons which were brought forward on behalf of Florence were not held sufficient. Florence is certainly more central; but centrality is hardly held to be indispensable in modern seats of Government; and though Florence is safer than Turin—which, by-the-by, is only exposed on the French side—yet Naples is still safer than Florence.

Happily, however, the opposition of the people, both of Turin and of other parts of Italy, has yielded to the desire to see Italy progress, and to the conviction that this can only be done by uniting to forward any means which may be taken to gain possession of her natural capital.

If there was any lurking distrust as to the objects and consequences of the proposed removal of the capital to Florence, it undoubtedly arose from that deep suspicion with which the Imperial policy has inspired all Italians; but the explanations which have been given and the evident necessity of some change for strategic purposes and for the good administration of the country, have reconciled all minds to a measure which is regarded only as temporary. It would be considered no less than treason to express a doubt as to the future capital being Rome; and yet, Rome once in possession of the Italians, even they, perhaps, may discover that, though good and necessary as completing the unity of their country, it is not well adapted for the capital. At present, however, being non proprietors, insatiable desire and poetic illusion will not hear of a doubt. It is of good augury for the future of the country that the contemplated changes have stirred up the profoundest feelings of the people, and that a volcanic population like the Neapolitans have discussed them with that moderation and good sense which might have distinguished a people who had enjoyed much longer a constitutional existence. As at the time there was no clamour, no disorder, so, after a lapse of nearly a month, the greatest tranquillity and harmony prevail. Reds and Moderates meet on the best terms. "Piedmontizing" is a term which is blotted from the vocabulary; party feeling, once so high, slumbers; and southern Italians are vying with Northerners in offering sympathy and assistance to the Turinese, and in winning them back to sisterly affection. Indeed, it is a grand spectacle which Italy now presents, and one full of hope for a country which, even up to late years, has been torn by civil discords and petty jealousies.

It is said that the Ministry contemplates only a slow and gradual withdrawal of the seat of Government—at first merely the removal of the Foreign Office; then, certainly, the opening in the new capital of the next Session but one of the Chambers; but all the offices of the various home departments are to remain in Turin till their final translation to Rome. Turin is, moreover, to become the great place d'armes of Italy, the residence of a very large garrison; ample funds are to be devoted to free the city from its municipal debt, to pay damages to private persons who invested large funds in (now profitless) building speculations; and vast sums will be devoted to the encouragement of several branches of local industry.

The effect that the change will have upon Turin, however, will probably be somewhat disastrous, and within a short period it may be anticipated that the population will be diminished from 226,000 to not more than half that number.

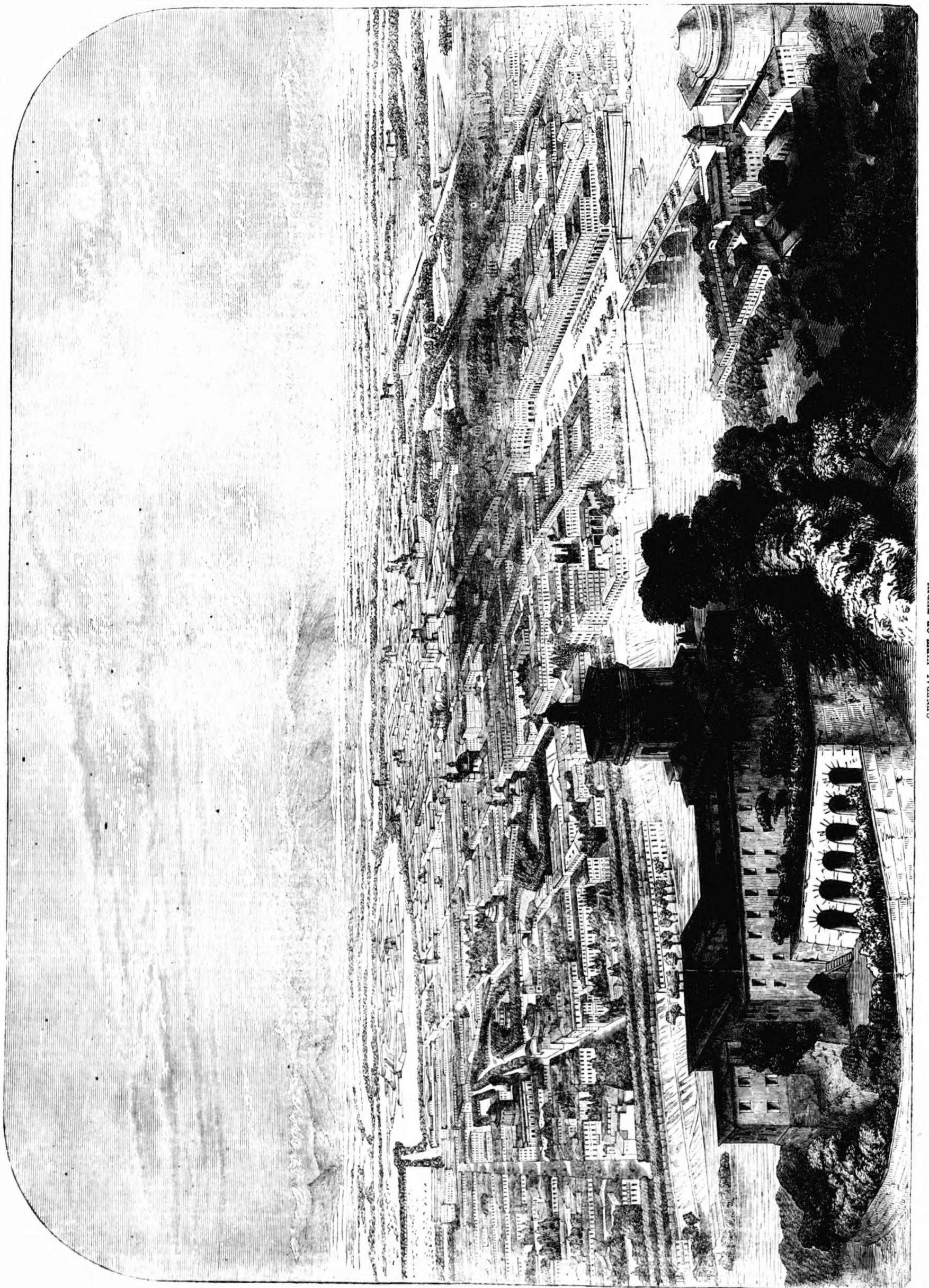
Meanwhile, in Florence everything is being made ready for the proposed change, and sagacious speculators in Turin, including, it is said, one personage of very high rank, have been for some time past investing money in the purchase of house property and building land in the new capital. So rapid has been the increase in rents there that an eminent banker, who a short time ago was in treaty for a villa, about the price of which there was some dispute which caused a little delay, has since offered twice his first bid, and has eventually been compelled to give three times the amount originally demanded. The new Minister of Finance reckons the expenditure for the first removal of the capital to Florence, as at present contemplated, at 10,000,000*l.* This is somewhat reassuring to those who had been scared by the computations of other statesmen, who asserted that the outlay necessary for that operation would be 100,000,000*l.*, and even 400,000,000*l.* Long before the move was really contemplated a well-informed financier had set down the figure at 50,000,000*l.*, something not far from M. Sella's alleged estimate.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY BY RUSSIAN POLICE.—A letter from St. Petersburg mentions an extraordinary affair which lately occurred in the town of Orel. A great local landowner had a large sum (43,000 silver roubles) to receive through the police-office of that town. On applying for the amount he was told that the money could not be handed over to him unless he presented the office with 5000 silver roubles. He refused, and immediately reported the case to St. Petersburg, and the money was paid over to him. But on the evening of the same day, as he was quietly smoking in his study, a loud ring was heard at the bell. The servant on opening the door was instantly plied, and four men, their faces covered with black crapes, rushed into the room. The landowner asked them what they wanted; they plainly told him he must hand over his 43,000 roubles. With the greatest coolness he went over to his strong box, opened it, seized a revolver, which was laid on the top shelf, and shot two of the robbers dead, the other two immediately taking to their heels. He then sent for assistance, the police, &c., and on the craps being removed from the faces of the dead men they were recognised as the head of the police and his secretary.

THE LAUNCH OF A SPANISH VESSEL OF WAR AT BLACKWALL.—On Monday a large number of visitors were assembled at the ship-building yard of Messrs. Richard and Henry Green, at Blackwall, to witness the launch of a fine iron-clad frigate, which this eminent firm has just completed for the Spanish navy. The launch was in every respect successful. This vessel, which is named the *Arapiles*—after that range of hills where the Duke of Wellington gained the Battle of Salamanca—was originally intended for a wooden screw-frigate of fifty-one guns, and was laid down on the lines of another splendid ship, the famous frigate *Ariadne*; but the rapid development of modern artillery-practice and the use of iron plating induced the Spanish Government to order a change in the construction of the vessel, and she is now altered into a frigate carrying thirty-four guns in broadside battery. Her length between perpendiculars is 279 ft.; her extreme breadth, 54 ft.; and her depth in hold, 32 ft. 5 in. Every modern improvement to give strength for carrying her plating and armament has been introduced, and she will carry 1000 tons of patent rolled plates, those to the water-line being 4 in., and those below the water-line 4½ in., in thickness. She will be fitted with this armour, as well as with her engines, in the Victoria Dock. The engines, which are nominally of 800-horse power, will be provided by Messrs. Penn and Son, and are calculated to give her a speed of 13½ knots.

GENERAL HAMPTON.—General Hampton's late foray upon Grant's forces furnishes our army with 1,000,000—some say nearly 2,000,000—pounds of the best beef which the Yankee markets afford, and will feed them for some time. General Hampton is understood to be General Lee's Master of Horse. He is in the prime of life, of a strong natural understanding, considerably cultivated, of immense physical strength and activity, of wonderful endurance, and inexhaustible energy. He has been all his life passionately addicted to field sports and woodcraft, in both of which he is said to excel most men of his day. One faculty, of the last importance to an officer holding such a command as his, he is said to possess in a very remarkable degree—that, namely, of becoming acquainted instantly, and almost instinctively, with all the features of whatever locality he may happen to pass over. We have heard it said if he were blindfolded and carried thirty miles into a forest in which he had never been before, he would find out where he was in five minutes after the removal of the bandage. He never camps a day in a neighbourhood without making himself sufficiently acquainted with all the roads, by-roads, and hog-paths, to act as a guide. General Hampton possesses another qualification very important in a cavalry officer, and yet not always possessed even by good cavalry officers. He is passionately fond of horses, and an uncommonly fine judge of them; takes a pleasure in studying their nature and wants, and thus affords the best guarantee that he will make his men attend to them. When we add that he is a splendid rider, a practical equestrian, and an excellent shot, but, above all, that he is what Carlyle calls "an earnest man, devoted with all the deep enthusiasm of his nature to the cause in which he is engaged."—*Richmond Dispatch.*

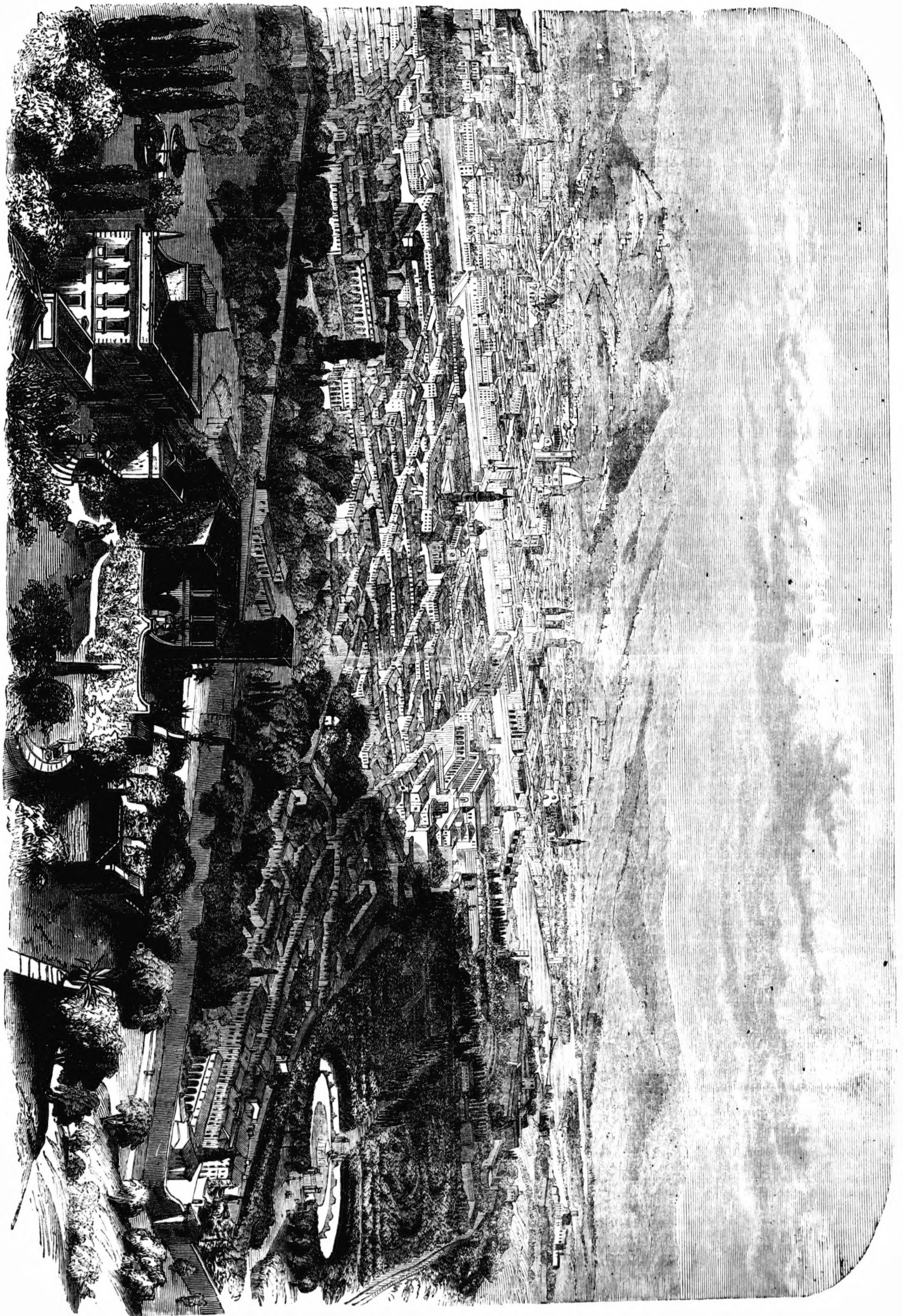




GENERAL VIEW OF TURIN.



GENERAL VIEW OF FLORENCE.





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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1864.

### A COLONY WITH A GRIEVANCE.

THE Government of Victoria, South Australia, imagines a grave cause of complaint against that of Great Britain. It is this: British convicts are still sent to Western Australia. Individuals from among their number occasionally escape, and find their way across unmapped wilds to the outskirts of civilised population in the other colonies. Besides these, others whose term has expired, or whose punishment may have been mitigated into exile, come to dwell among the reputable citizens of Melbourne and Geelong. The consequences are: that there is a certain amount of savage brigandage carried on upon the outlying districts of the colony, and, moreover, that within its boundaries the inhabitants are subject to an influx of objectionable members of society, whose reformation by punishment may be more or less incomplete.

At this state of things the colonists of South Australia have worked themselves into a state of indignation. They choose to regard convicts, whether as bushrangers or settlers, as the scum of the mother country—or, in other words, as foreigners, forced upon innocent dwellers in a virgin colony. This view of the question, however convenient to them, is scarcely consonant with historical fact. In Australia, and especially at its southern extremity, including the island of Van Diemen's Land, our convicts have been utilised as the rough pioneers of civilisation. As this has progressed—as convict work has developed the bounties of nature, by forming bays into harbours, clearing forests into the sites of towns, and cultivating valleys and hillsides into pasturage—the convicts themselves have been withdrawn into more remote and secluded districts. As the convict has retired, so the emigrant has advanced; and if the two have occasionally come into collision upon the boundaries of their respective territories, surely the emigrant has no more reason to complain of the difficulties thus occasioned than if he had had to encounter crime in his own country, the depredations of savages, or the hardships and terrors of the wilderness in the continent to which he has thought fit to transport himself.

But the case appears yet stronger against the Victorians when it is taken into account that but a few years since the very classes who now exclaim so loudly against convict importation were themselves recruited by our transported criminals. Is it not true that many now high in position, society, and even in office, in South Australia, are known either to be discharged convicts or their direct descendants? Believing such to be the fact, we ask the question in no contemptuous spirit. We would regard the affirmative rather as a matter for gratulation, since it must be evident that it must be far better for a Bill Sykes to be a reformed miner, or a sheep-farmer, or a town councillor at Geelong or Victoria, than a prowling, hopeless depredator in the Old World. Still, the strangest incident of the grievance remains. Convicts are not sent to South Australia. If successive transport vessels were constantly arriving, depositing thousands of criminals to roam the streets of the new cities of the southern continent, an outcry would indeed be reasonable. But our convicts are sent to Western Australia, some fifteen hundred miles away! We send others to our own Isle of Portland, seven miles only from one of our most fashionable watering-places; but we have not yet heard any threat from Weymouth, or even from Dorsetshire, in consequence.

We can scarcely trust ourselves to treat with due respect for its proponents, the threat with which Great Britain is menaced should its Government continue to act as heretofore, and send its convicts to a distant shore of the continent of which Victoria forms a part. The Victorians, in such case, pledge themselves to withdraw their subsidy to our postal arrangements. Well, and if so, what then? Simply, of course, that the rate of postage to Southern Australia would be increased, and that the recalcitrants themselves would be losers in the case of every one of them desiring to receive or send a letter; since of course no letter would be received thence without prepayment for sending, nor delivered under the increased rate.

However, it is by no means the wish of our countrymen, and cannot be that of the Government which represents them, to give or maintain any cause of complaint, whether more or less fanciful, to our colonists. In the present case they have begun at the wrong end. Instead of a reasonable statement of wrongs, we receive a protest and a threat. Had the authorities of Victoria sent over a fair, tangible statement of any erroneous system pursued here by which they were exposed to unnecessary detriment, they would certainly not have lacked sympathy. It is not yet too late to do so, if the cause exist.

THE FIRST STONE of Contract No. 2 of the Thames Embankment was laid on Wednesday. This portion of the great work is at the western end of Temple Pier.

THE YACHT FOR GARIBALDI has been purchased, is now being fitted out at Cowes, and will be dispatched in the course of a few days. The London committee pay half her purchase money, the Liverpool committee undertaking to pay expenses to Capri.

### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY and the junior members of the Royal family are expected to leave Balmoral on Monday, the 24th inst., and to arrive at Windsor Castle early next morning.

PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR, the infant son of the Prince and Princess of Wales, arrived at Hull, in the *Salamis*, on Sunday; landed on Monday, and was conveyed by his attendants to Balmoral in the afternoon.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE is to be the new Knight of the Garter.

THE KING OF ITALY is reported to have signed a decree of amnesty for the prisoners taken at Aspromonte who were deserters from the army.

A PROJECT has been started in Liverpool for erecting a statue of Mr. Gladstone in that town.

MR. TENNYSON is said to have already made £10,000 by his "Enoch Arden."

JULES GERARD, the Non-killer, is said to have been drowned in the Jong River, Africa.

THE REPORT of the loss of H.M.S. Bulldog turns out to have been unfounded.

MR. CHARLES LINDLEY WOOD has been appointed private secretary to Sir George Grey, in the room of the Hon. G. Waldegrave Leslie, resigned.

AN ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF VICTOR HUGO'S "LES MISÉRABLES," lately produced, went off so quickly that 30,000 were sold in a few days, and 1500 more ordered.

EMILY ARKHURST, a child aged three years, has been poisoned by eating yew-tree berries gathered in Finchley Cemetery.

THE MARRIAGE of Commander the Hon. Ernest G. L. Cochrane, youngest son of the late Earl of Dundonald, to Miss Adelaide Blackall, only daughter of Major Blackall, Governor of Sierra Leone, took place on the 15th ult., at the cathedral at Free Town.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY GLADSTONE, eldest son of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been mentioned as likely to contest Chester at the ensuing general election. It is asserted, however, that Mr. Gladstone will stand for Blackburn, and not for Chester.

A NEW SONG by Mrs. Alfred Tennyson, the Laureate's wife, entitled "The Alma River," has recently been published. It has been set to music by the same lady.

A WEAR-YOUR-LAST-WINTER-OVERCOAT CLUB has been formed in New York.

A COMMITTEE has been formed, with the Lord Mayor of Dublin at its head, for the purpose of pushing the Papal loan of £2,000,000 in Ireland.

GENERAL TODLEBEN, whose work is now the subject of so much attention among military men, is about to pay England a visit; during the principal part of his stay he will be the guest of Captain Blakely.

THE MAIL ON THE GENEVA ROAD, SWITZERLAND, was stopped and plundered a few days ago by brigands, nine in number. The passengers were not only robbed, but severely ill-treated, one of them and the postilion being mortally wounded.

THE PROVOST-MARSHAL OF LOUISVILLE and all his assistants have been arrested for kidnapping negroes and selling them as substitutes.

LAST WEEK'S STATEMENTS FROM BLACKBURN AND PRESTON show a considerable increase in the number of unemployed cotton operatives. In Preston great dissatisfaction exists among the workmen.

THE WAR OFFICE has made arrangements to provide a regular supply of diagrams and magic-lantern slides to illustrate the lectures and entertainments which may be given to the troops at the various stations in the United Kingdom during the approaching winter months.

THE GREAT WORKS OF MESSRS. SMITH AND CO., known as the Pimlico Patent Wheel Works, were utterly destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The damage is estimated at £100,000.

LORD STANLEY addressed his constituents at King's Lynn on Wednesday in a speech in which he declared himself for non-intervention in the quarrels both of America and of Germany. In domestic matters he urged the necessity of economy, especially in the Naval Estimates. On the extension of the franchise he was not hopeful. Small measures, he said, would not be acceptable, and a large measure could not be carried.

MR. WILSON, agent to the Earl of Leitrim, was shot at by two men a few days ago in broad daylight, and in presence of several persons, who made no attempt to interfere or to capture the assassins. Mr. Wilson was severely wounded, but there are hopes of his recovery.

A COLLIER'S WIFE, near Wigan, poured 2½ lb. of blasting-powder into the fire when about to go to bed, under the impression that it was a can of water she had in her hand. Her husband was sitting near the fire at the time, and the consequence was that husband and wife were seriously injured, whilst the roof of the house was blown off.

THE DEATH OF MR. JOHN HEYWOOD, the enterprising Manchester publisher, is announced. Mr. Heywood greatly helped in the development of periodical literature by organising the existing system of rapidly and cheaply transmitting newspapers and magazines from one part of the country to the other.

THE GREAT STRIKE OF COLLIERIES in the Staffordshire districts, which has lasted for many weeks, has now terminated, the men having gone in to work on the terms offered by the masters.

STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN for making branch lines near Halifax from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, one starting at North Dean and running to Holywell Green, Stainland, and the other beginning at Luddenden Foot and running a little above Luddenden.

A NEW THEATRE was opened in Manchester on Saturday last. It has been erected by a public company, and is intended to be devoted to dramatic and musical entertainments of a higher class than those which have been vouchsafed to the citizens of late years by the older houses. Shakespeare's "Tempest" was appropriately chosen as the inaugural piece.

MR. BEWICK, the Northumbrian magistrate, who had to suffer the most ruinous hardships in consequence of being convicted of a felony on the evidence of perjurers, and whose case came before Parliament, when he was awarded £400, the proceeds of the sale of his goods, has since received from the Treasury an additional sum of £750.

MR. J. SPENCER BAYNES, LL.D., has been elected to the chair of Logic, Rhetoric, and Metaphysics at St. Andrew's University, vacant by the appointment of Mr. Veitch to a similar chair in the University of Glasgow; and the Rev. Robert Flint, minister of Kilconquhair, has succeeded to the chair of Moral Philosophy formerly occupied by the late Dr. Ferrier in the first-named University.

A FEDERAL MAN-OF-WAR has gone in pursuit of the *Laurel*, which left Liverpool a few days ago, with, as was said, Captain Semmes on board, in order to apprehend that officer, who has been pronounced a prisoner of war by the Federal Courts. The owner of the *Laurel* states that Captain Semmes was not a passenger in the *Laurel*, and that the *Ranger*, of which he was said to be about to take the command, is of only 100 tons burden, and utterly unfit for war purposes.

THE BANK OF THE GAMING-HOUSE AT SPA recently had an extraordinary run of ill-luck. One of the most successful players was the Hungarian General Klappa. He had announced his intention to play only an hour and a quarter, and at the expiration of that time he rose a winner of 57,000*fr.* The General left Spa the following day for France.

A PERIODICAL which busies itself with heraldry gives the following as the arms of the principal Italian cities:—Naples, a siren; Rome, a she-wolf; Florence, a lily; Modena and Piacenza, a cross; Venice, a lion; Turin, a bull. The arms of Sicily are a head with three legs—an allusion, probably, to her three capes—Trinacria.

THE BRITANNIA HAT, or helmet, is about to be adopted by the City police force. This substitute for the awkward and unsightly hat at present worn by the City police was recommended more than two years since by the surgeon to the force, G. Borlase Childs, Esq., and has since been adopted by the metropolitan and several provincial police forces.

THE SUREW STREAM-SHIP *SEA KING*, which lately arrived in the Thames with a cargo of tea, has, it is said, been purchased for Confederate purposes. Her skeleton of iron is covered with strong wooden planking, which is in its turn lined with copper. By this method she is less liable to foul. She is so built as to be able to steam or sail at pleasure.

VERY SERIOUS DISTURBANCES are reported to have taken place in the Dutch East Indies—apparently a widely spread insurrection of the indigenous population. Fort Sintang was closely besieged at the date of the last advices, and its slender garrison was daily dwindling under the attacks of the natives. Reinforcements were being sent, but it was doubted whether they would arrive in time.

A MAGNIFICENT BAZAAR was opened on Tuesday, in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, in aid of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund. Contributions have been received from all parts of the United Kingdom, from Paris, Rome, the Southern States, Canada, and even from New York. The pecuniary success of the bazaar is already a matter of certainty, as subscriptions to the amount of £7500 have been received, and they are still pouring in.

NOTICES TO QUIT are now being served by the Corporation on the owners and the occupiers of the properties required for the Holborn valley viaduct and the improvements on the south side of Skinner-street, Knowlton, and Holborn-hill. Several houses also required for the purpose at one end of Shoe-lane, adjacent to the Church of St. Andrew, Holborn, are about to be disposed of with a view to their demolition and the commencement of the work.

ACCORDING TO SIR CHARLES BRIGHT, there only remain about 160 miles of land telegraphic communication to be completed before India and England are in direct connection. Another route between England and India, through Russia, by way of Tiflis and Teheran, will be ready in a few weeks. Sir Charles thinks that in three years we may have daily telegrams from Hong-Kong, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Melbourne.

### THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Church does not present a very edifying spectacle just now. It cannot be said to be the dead Church that it was last century; but its liveliness is certainly of a questionable character. A quarrel which has arisen between the Bishop of Manchester and Dr. Molesworth, and in the course of which some very bitter words have been uttered, though a sad scandal, may be regarded as isolated and accidental. Such scandals will arise in the best-regulated families, and must not be allowed to damage the character of the Church. Nevertheless, the Church authorities certainly ought to notice and rebuke these angry gentlemen, and they would do this if they were as zealous for good conduct as they are for sound creed. Manchester is, I suppose, in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York. What power he possesses to call a Bishop to account I know not; perhaps but little. He could, however, and ought, publicly to reprove Dr. Lee for his outrageous conduct. The learned Archbishop has lately been lecturing on Rationalism, and very properly. It is his duty to guard his Church from everything that he imagines to be dangerous; but if he neglect to notice this scandalous quarrel, men will have a right to say of him that, like the Pharisees of old, he is more horrified by erroneous opinions than he is by scandalous conduct. But this is an old fault of Churchmen. In all ages, in countries possessing an established church, it was safer for a man—even a clergyman—to sin against moral law than to whisper an heretical opinion. The people, however, let his Lordship remember, differed from their priests in this matter, and do now. They would not go so far as to agree with Pope, when he says,

For modes of faith let senseless zealots fight,

He can't be wrong whose life is in the right;

but they have a strong intuitive conviction that religion ought to produce decency of conduct, and that a moral life is better than an orthodox creed.

But it was the quarrels in the Church generally that I had in my mind when I first began to write. On those in the Church by law established I shall say but little, as I noticed them a few weeks ago. They are going on and will go on with ever-increasing heat for some time. Under this head I may, however, just notice that I have seen in several families of late a cheap edition of Rénan's "Life of Jesus" in French; and I understand that the sale of it has been considerable in England. The English translation is a large book, and expensive; but the French edition is portable, can be carried easily in the pocket, and costs only a shilling. It will, therefore, be smuggled into many a family into which it would be impossible for the English translation to find admission. And then it is in French, which, though the young ladies can read, Pater and Mater Familias in all probability cannot; and if they learn on inquiry that it is a Life of Jesus, they, good souls, being entirely ignorant of Rénan and his book, will rejoice to find their children reading voluntarily a "serious" work. Now, whether the book be good or bad I say not; I only record what I see and hear, which it is my vocation and duty to do. And now to the point at which I aimed when I started. You know that an internecine war has broken out between Mr. Spurgeon and the Evangelical clergy: subject—baptismal regeneration, whatever that may be. But let that pass. Your readers, if they be the sensible people I take them to be, will not trouble themselves about the subject of this controversial squabble. But it may be interesting to them to know how widely this flame has spread. Well, I am told that some one hundred or more pamphlets have been already published, and I should say that a good-sized wagon would not hold all the paper that has been spoiled. Of two sermons by Spurgeon nearly a quarter of a million copies have been sold; and, as each sermon fills a sheet, 500 reams of paper have been expended on these alone. Did ever sermons sell like these before? Never since the first sermon was preached. Mr. Spurgeon is clearly one of the remarkable phenomena of these effervescent times. When he first appeared above the horizon it was foretold that he would soon run his course and sink, never to rise again. This prophecy has, however, not been fulfilled. He is still as popular as ever. Every Sunday 5000 people flock to hear him; and he is popular, too, in foreign countries, if it be true—and there seems to be no doubt that it is—that his weekly discourses are regularly translated into French, Dutch, German, and Italian, and meet with a ready sale. Wherein his power lies I never could discover. More than once or twice I have wended my way to the Tabernacle to discover the philosophy of his attractive force, but never succeeded; could not once, indeed, stave off his wearisome discourse. He has a loud voice, a confident tone, awkward manner, and unattractive presence; whilst his matter is simply the old Calvinistic divinity hashed and served up in rough style. It was thought that it was the rough wit and daring illustration with which he seasoned his dish that made it attractive; but I am told that he has dropped all this, and yet the people eagerly rush to the feast every Sunday, listen to his sermons apparently with intense interest, and, what is more wonderful, read them in the week. Now, unriddle me this riddle if you can, for to me it is an insoluble mystery. I know what makes Gladstone so attractive. The source of Bright's power it is easy to discover. We need no profound philosophy to prove to us how it is that Palmerston, Cobden, and Disraeli can command the attention of listening senates; but I have utterly failed to discover Spurgeon's secret. A friend suggests that I do not belong to Spurgeon's world, and cannot, therefore, expect to understand its forces and the laws thereof; and there may be something in this.

The Duke of Newcastle is dead. This event, long expected, will make no change in the House of Commons, as the Earl of Lincoln, who succeeds to the dukedom, is not a member of Parliament. He sat for Newark from 1857 to 1859, but at the general election in the latter year he was defeated. The Duke of Newcastle will be remembered chiefly by the part which he acted in the Russian War, and on this I will say just a few words. "It was by a kind of chance rather than any intentional selection," as Kingslake says, "that the Duke had become intrusted with the momentous duties of the war. He was Secretary for the Colonies, and, according to the practice which was in force up to the summer of 1851, the Secretary of State for the Colonies was also the Secretary for War; but, as the historian of the invasion of the Crimea tells us, 'before the war, however, the public hardly observed, and, in fact, hardly knew this, because in peace time (thanks to the labours of the Horse Guards, the office for the Secretary at War, the Ordnance, and several other offices) the duties of Colonial Secretary in his character for Secretary for War were very slight; and, there being no prospect of war when Lord Aberdeen's Government was formed, the Duke of Newcastle was of course selected with a view to his qualification for the administration of the colonies, and not with any consideration as to his aptitude for the war department.' The same writer tells us that 'the Duke was a man of a sanguine, eager nature, very prone to action. He had a good, clear intellect, with more of strength than keenness, unwearied industry, and an astonishing facility of writing.' In this anomalous position, then, and with these qualities, the storm came down upon him. But he was not daunted, nor did he quail before his duties. On the contrary, he manfully grappled with them; and, impelled by his eager, sanguine disposition and his proneness to action, threw his whole heart into, if he did not suggest, the project of the invasion of the Crimea. But now comes an illustration of that want of keenness which the historian ascribes to him. Had his intellect been as keen as it was strong, before he rushed into this project ahead of his colleagues, he would have searched for whether we were prepared for such a bold undertaking,—whether we had an organisation, stores, &c., ready. This, however, he did not do. Knowing little, though nominally Secretary for War, of the War Department, he took for granted that it was prepared for the emergency, and that everything which the Cabinet determined ought to be done the War Office, the Admiralty, and the Horse Guards would be ready to perform. He soon, however, as we all know, found out his mistake. Nothing was ready. The organisation was so utterly imperfect that the various departments did not know what were their functions. For example: Kingslake tells us



that "the first army surgeon who applied for certain of the medical stores required on foreign service was sent with no less than five official theories as to the functionary upon whom the demand should be made." In fact, the Duke found, instead of everything ready, nothing ready; and instead of order, chaos. In such circumstances, was it wonderful that the Duke failed? and ought we to lay the failure to his charge? I suspect that, had it not been that by his strength of intellect or of will, and unwearied industry, he in a measure repaired the evils which from want of "keenness" he had failed to discover, the failure would have been still more disastrous than it was. But he had every motive to impel him to labour to make the invasion of the Crimea a success; for, if the historian of that invasion be correct, his Grace was the prime instigator of that invasion, and it was his despatch to Lord Raglan—that famous despatch, the reading of which sent all the Cabinet at Pembroke Lodge to sleep—which impelled Lord Raglan to undertake a work which his judgment hardly approved.

They say—who are they, I wonder?—that the French Government is buying racehorses at fancy prices. Three thousand guineas has been offered for one horse and eight thousand for another. Can this be true? or is it only some waggish betting-man's method of rigging the market?

We English only lost Captain Speke the other day, and now we are reading the announcement of the death of Jules Gérard. The famous lion-killer was only in his forty-seventh year. He was drowned in crossing a streamlet. Strange that, having passed through so many perils, Gérard and Speke, like poor Harrison, the first captain of the Leviathan, should have succumbed to accidents comparatively trivial.

I read in the *Correspondance Littéraire* that M. Rénan, the author of the "Vie de Jésus," is about to sail for Asia, where he intends to visit the places where St. Paul passed the chief portion of his life. M. Rénan is about to write a work on the preaching of the Apostles. The *Siècle* says that it is in official contemplation to build a religious theatre in Paris, in which the pieces to be performed are to be drawn from the New Testament.

It is said that the Prussian decoration of the Red Eagle may be worn in thirty-seven different ways! A thirty-eighth has been proposed, which some will think the best of all—that the Red Eagle be worn in the trousers-pocket.

#### THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

*Under the Ban (Le Maudit).* A Tale of the Nineteenth Century. Translated from the French. Smith, Elder, and Co.

*Father Stirling.* By JAMES M'GRIGOR ALLAN. T. Cauntly Newby.

It is late in the day to think of reviewing "Under the Ban" (*Le Maudit*), and, accordingly, I am not going to review it. I may, however, briefly, but energetically, recommend it to those who can stand a three-volume story of a solid character. It is a very powerful book, and the translation published by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. is exceedingly good.

One thing should be said in connection with all such books, and it is this:—For a long time Nonconformists of almost all classes have been taunted with the decay of their influence and the growth of the "reaction" towards (what we will call) institutional absolutism. It would certainly be found, at a push, that this "reaction" was as hollow as a certain other "reaction," which is not within the scope of my discussion in this column; but, apart from that, the criticism is extremely shallow. Who ever imagined for a moment that the mind of the world could be permanently detained around any given formal statement of an incessant question? The fighting activity must pass into new forms. The old shapes of it must decay. But the battle goes on, and, so far from its flagging at all, it seems to a good many people that what was, in its old shape, a mere attempt at storming outposts, has become a sort of conflict in the midst of the citadel itself. The book before us, "*Le Maudit*," is a striking illustration of what I have been saying. While the "reactionists" have been amusing themselves with changes on the surface, the enemy whom they have been snubbing has sprung his mine successfully, and the very capitol of the "reactionist" party is in danger.

If I do not review "*Le Maudit*" at this time, I am, still less, going to make any sort of comparison between it and the other book, "*Father Stirling*." They have this in common, that they both concern themselves with the celibacy of priests, and they are both "Insurgent Books;" but that is all the resemblance. "*Father Stirling*" has already been ably reviewed in this Journal by another pen than mine; and it only becomes a topic of comment again because there is a little fight over it, to which the attention of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* has been invoked.

The fight is a very simple one. Mr. Mudie would not have "*Father Stirling*" in his library, but wrote to the author, Mr. James M'Grigor Allan, in terms which one can only infer from what Mr. Allan himself says in the printed paper which he sent us:—

NOVELS.—FOR WHOM WRITTEN.

(Copy of a letter forwarded to Mr. Mudie.)

Sir,—A short time since, you were good enough to forward me, through my publisher, Mr. Newby, an intimation to the following effect:—that if I would write a novel which could be put into the hands of young people you would circulate it, and make some compensation for the rejection of four of my books. Allow me a few remarks on the fallacy that all novels should be written for young people or young ladies. It is a fact that grave men, judges, statesmen, men of science, merchants, doctors, and others read good novels, and find in them an agreeable relaxation in the intervals of arduous professional avocations. Such readers know the world, and must prefer fiction of a very different character from that which is sought by young ladies. I do not now discuss the theory that young ladies should read nothing which would open their eyes to the actual condition of the world in which they are to live. What kind of novels young ladies ought to read, or whether they ought to read novels at all, is a question which should be decided by every father of a family. Everyone, however, must be struck with the difference between theory and fact. Practically, young ladies do read not only the deservedly popular novels of modern authors—not only the mild novel which secures propriety at the expense of interest—but also violent sensational novels, in which seduction, bigamy, divorce, forgery, and murder form the subject matter.

This is all the extract for which room can be spared. The first thing that strikes one is that the Book World is really coming to a pretty pass! Practically, the large advertisers command the mass of the reviewing power of the press; so that the bulk of our newspaper criticism is not worth a rap; and now we are threatened with another danger! Not only can a public librarian check the sale and influence of a book by putting it in his *Index Expurgatorius*; he can also put forth an express personal influence to get books written that he himself would like to see circulated.

I am not going to howl, or talk nonsense. We all know that toleration does not exist; that life is from end to end a squabble; and that if Milton were living now he might still complain that, when he spoke of liberty, he was "casting pearls to hogs." Neither am I going to be hard on Mr. Mudie, who has been, in my earnest belief, a real public benefactor. How much is true about the "difficulty" of getting certain books at his library I really do not know. I have myself been a subscriber (four books at "a time") for seven or eight years, and I remain a subscriber because I can find no library so good, or nearly so good. In the course of my seven or eight years, I have often suffered extreme inconvenience through not being able to get the book I wanted. On two occasions I have had to buy the book. But that sort of thing might very well happen. Mr. Mudie cannot be expected to have everything ready for everybody at an hour's warning. It is understood, in a lending library, that one takes his chance.

It was said years ago that a book by Mr. Mill was difficult to get. I did not find it so. Recently it has been said that J. H. Newman's "*Apologia*" was hard to find at Mudie's. I myself obtained it with perfect ease. But it did once happen to me to be refused a book at Mr. Mudie's, a book that he was, everybody thinks, bound to have. I wanted it for a sudden purpose, in the middle of a leading article, and was told point-blank that it was an excluded book. After consulting numerous friends upon the subject, I must say I did not find one who was not of opinion that Mr. Mudie ought to have had the book in question.

So much for my own experience. "Whatever appears remark-

able," said Goethe, "that do you always endeavour to look at with your own eyes." Now for a word about Mr. James M'Grigor Allan. He is a very intelligent, well-read gentleman, and the worst of his books contain good things. I perfectly remember two of them, and have no hesitation in saying that, whatever faults they had, an impure tendency was not one of them. Mr. Allan enforces nothing that is wrong; and, indeed, he seems to understand that it is not a novelist's function to "enforce" anything—that his function is to state equitably the problems of life, leaving the theorems of duty entirely alone.

Which reminds one of "Enoch Arden." A contemporary fiercely denounced it as an "immoral" poem. Yet I am informed that it has sold nearly fifty thousand copies. Suppose Mr. Mudie had taken it into his head that it was not fit to go into the hands of the young?

The celibacy of priests is a subject which may be discussed in a good many ways. Mrs. Stowe touched it in "*Agnes of Sorrento*," and very beautifully. With the books of an incautious artist, I can well understand that Mr. Mudie may be in a "fix" between author, publisher, and old fogey. But certainly I do not think he has any right to refuse any book for which there is a conscientious public. Literature which comes under the Campbell Act he must refuse; and he may refuse justly, because there is no conscientious public for it.

The difficulties of the "morality" test, to be applied by a single individual, are absolutely insurmountable. That a librarian is at liberty to refuse a book because he thinks it "immoral," implies the following propositions:—

I. That we have arrived, in our day, at the Ultimate Morality, and have no improvement to make in our scheme; which is a million times more absurd than supposing that we have arrived at the Ultimate Chemistry or Ultimate Geology.

II. That the librarian is an infallible judge of the accord or discord of the book with the present standard; which, again, is absurd.

III. That a book which is not up to the received standard must necessarily be "put down;" which is absurd again.

A comment or two on the above hypotheses. I could name two great writers of novels—novels which Mr. Mudie has circulated by thousands—who have, in my opinion, absolutely rotted the morals and faith of the present generation (speaking, of course, widely). Perhaps a thousand people might be got to agree with me—perhaps ten. Two hundred years hence everybody may agree with me. Who can tell? But, in any case, the absolute inapplicability of the "morality" test is powerfully illustrated.

Again, Mr. Mudie has in his library not only volumes by the score which are immoral in spirit, and known to be so (I do not say in teaching, because that must be an open question), but also volumes by the score the deliberate purpose of which was, or is, to overthrow at a stroke the received morality of the day. In some of them the purpose is avowed; in some it is not avowed, the esoteric doctrine of the writers being expressed in symbols—cyphers to which not a few find the key. Mr. Mudie's "law" may therefore well strike a sufferer like Mr. Allan as being very much like that other "law" (of the land) which is said to be a cobweb that only catches the weak flies—the strong, big ones break through and escape.

#### THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"The Demon Lover"—the latest novelty at the NEW ROYALTY—could not have been produced at a more auspicious moment. The town is talking of the Davenport Brothers, and of little else. Spiritualism is again the topic of the day. Men declare that they have seen "hands," and ladies depose as to conversations with their departed offspring. Tables are up, and sceptics down; and, because in a room from which the light has been carefully excluded a few slaps, and raps, and thumps are felt, and some clever tricks are exhibited which cannot be accounted for on any principle of known conjuring or legerdemain, good easy folks rush to the belief that the spirits, say, of J. Caesar, of Rome; W. Shakspeare, of Stratford-on-Avon; or George G. Byron, last of Missolonghi, are among them manifesting themselves mischievously. I fear that the readers of the present day have been so spoiled by the *water-gate* of the novel-clerical—where whole chapters consist of the Rector's lady visiting the Curate's wife in a basket-carriage and nothing coming of their conversation, with other equally thrilling incidents, on the one side; and the novel-sensational, where the wicked husband beguiles his thirteenth wife into the lantern-roof of a dismantled lighthouse, and from that dizzy altitude hurls her into the sea, lest she should give evidence touching his murder of her mother, whom he—the husband—poisoned scientifically in the springtime of his youth, upon the other—that they do not find time to read the works of Sir Walter Scott—if they did, they would remember how, in "Woodstock," Cromwell's commissioners unwillingly held scances, and how physical material maltreatment was suffered by them at the hands and feet of the spirits of that day. The same idea has been worked out by Mr. John Brougham, in his new "piece of diablerie" (see playbill). The scene is laid, in the seventeenth century, in a room in an old German mansion. The Baron Joseph Bluffenbach (Mr. Stephens) is a greedy, vain old man, who wishes to keep his late brother's son, Albert Eberstein (Mr. Shore), out of his inheritance as long as he can. The Baron also has a ward, one Angela (Miss Harriett Pelham), who loves and is beloved by Albert, and whom he, the Baron, loves himself with all the ardour of three-score-and-ten. The young lady laughingly tells him that he is too old for her, but that if he were a younger man his chance might be improved. The Baron, who is constantly reading the black books of the black art, resolves that youth shall be restored to him, on any terms. Albert, who is kept *au courant* with all that happens in the mansion by his old servitors, Ursula (Mrs. Simpson) and Wilhelm (Mrs. Russell), takes his measures in a concatenation accordingly. It is midnight! The Baron, alone and frightened, draws a magic circle and begins an incantation—that is, he proceeds to raise that personage, who, Mr. Editor, shall ever be nameless between you and your Theatrical Lounger. Crash! bang! He—the individual without a name—appears: that is, Albert disguised in the usual Mephistophelian costume, presents himself. The Baron demands a proof the supernatural power of the demon. The individual draws from his demonaical pocket a flute—German, of course. He begins to play. *Presto!* the pictures on the wall, the chairs, tables, &c., in the room begin dancing. The music ceases! the chairs, tables, &c., resume their normal immobility! The Baron, who is old, feeble-minded, vain, and credulous, is, of course, satisfied. The Baron wishes to be seated: his favourite arm-chair walks to him. He desires to write: a table covered with writing materials waddles to the spot on which he stands, and it is this portion of the drama that reminds me of what I have heard of the Davenport séances and of Scott's novels. The Baron believes in the power of the demon, whereas it is the servants Ursula and Wilhelm who shake the pictures, move the furniture, &c., and, as the Yankees say, "confederate with the swindle." It is needless to say that in the end the lovers are victorious, are married and happy, and that the bamboozled Baron comes to grief in every way. The piece is pleasantly acted, and, though the materials of which it is composed are old, they have been renovated by the author with great care and judgment. Mr. Barnard's extravaganza of "Ixion," which still retains possession of the playbills and of the favour of the audience, and has reached its 250th night of performance.

"The O'Flahertys, or the Difficulty of Identifying an Irishman," which was produced on Monday at DURY LANE, is, I think, the worst piece that has been presented to the public for the last ten years, and reflects equal discredit on Mr. Falconer's abilities as a dramatist and as an actor. Tyrone Power, in the height of his popularity, could not have made such tedious silliness endurable; and it is a pleasing symptom of returning spirit on the part of a long-suffering public that the judicious majority of a full house hissed it heartily.

The event of the past week was the return of Miss Helen Faucit to that stage from which she has been too long absent. "*Cymbeline*" was revived, perhaps not so much for the sake of

the play itself—which, however beautiful as a poem, is not absolutely popular as an acting play—as for the introduction of the gifted lady whose entrance was hailed with such genuine enthusiasm. It is too late in the day to praise Miss Helen Faucit. It is enough to say that, on Monday night, her performance of Imogen was worthy of herself and of our great poet, and that the audience hung upon her syllables spellbound by the enchantment of true art. Mr. Phelps was an effective Leonatus Posthumus, and Mr. Creswick a painstaking Iachimo. I must confess, though, that the deep, guttural tone adopted by our modern tragedians is always distasteful to my ears. Their voices seem, as it were, away from the scene—out of the picture—and to be thundering in the middle of the pit. All praise is due to Mr. Henry Marston for his performance of Belarius, to Mr. Rayner, Mr. Walter Lacy, Mr. Edmund Phelps, and Miss Atkinson for their rendering of the rugged Cymbeline, the bombastic Cloten, the faithful Pisanio, and the treacherous Queen. Indeed, Mr. Walter Lacy threw a new light upon the character of Cloten, which in his hands was freed from the gross caricature and absurd extravagance with which the "funny men" in theatres too often indulge the galleries.

I suppose it is known that a "Lounger" is, or may be, a Multiplicity in Unity. That being premised, let the writer who now takes up the Lounger's *stylus* say a word about Mr. Buchanan's "Witchfinder," at SADLER'S WELLS. You will have seen from the daily and other papers that it was a success, and that Miss Marriott, as Elijah, the half-wit, and Mr. Melville, as Martin Holt, won all sorts of golden opinions. Since the first night, alterations have been made, and the whole thing goes swimmingly. I read some of the criticisms, and very good they were, but a little "abroad" in some points. One critic fearlessly pronounced an opinion about the poetry of the play: all I can say about it is that I hadn't the remotest idea, half the time, when the poetry was turned on and when the prose. It was like a pump giving hard and soft water together, so badly did some of the actors "deliver" the matter on the first night. Again, something was said to have been absurdly presented as taking place in "five minutes." Now, if you read fifty you will be near the mark; but what's a difference of ten times? As for the antiquarian criticism, it was only too clever! Salem was a locally-governed colony. Witches were hanged, and not burnt there; and the statute of King James had nothing whatever to do with the witch-prosecutions in Massachusetts. What a deal of good learning is sometimes thrown away, to be sure! As for the author, taken as a dramatist, the stage shall hear more of him. He is obviously a man who has the knack of conquering.

A new theatre has been opened in Manchester. I was told it was to be devoted to comedy, vaudeville, and *opera bouffe*; but, as it opened with "The Tempest," the chances are that I was misinformed. The management may be congratulated on having secured the services of Mr. Wallerstein as musical director, as that gentleman always considers his orchestra from an operatic point of view, and makes the *entr'acte* music a special feature of the evening's entertainment.

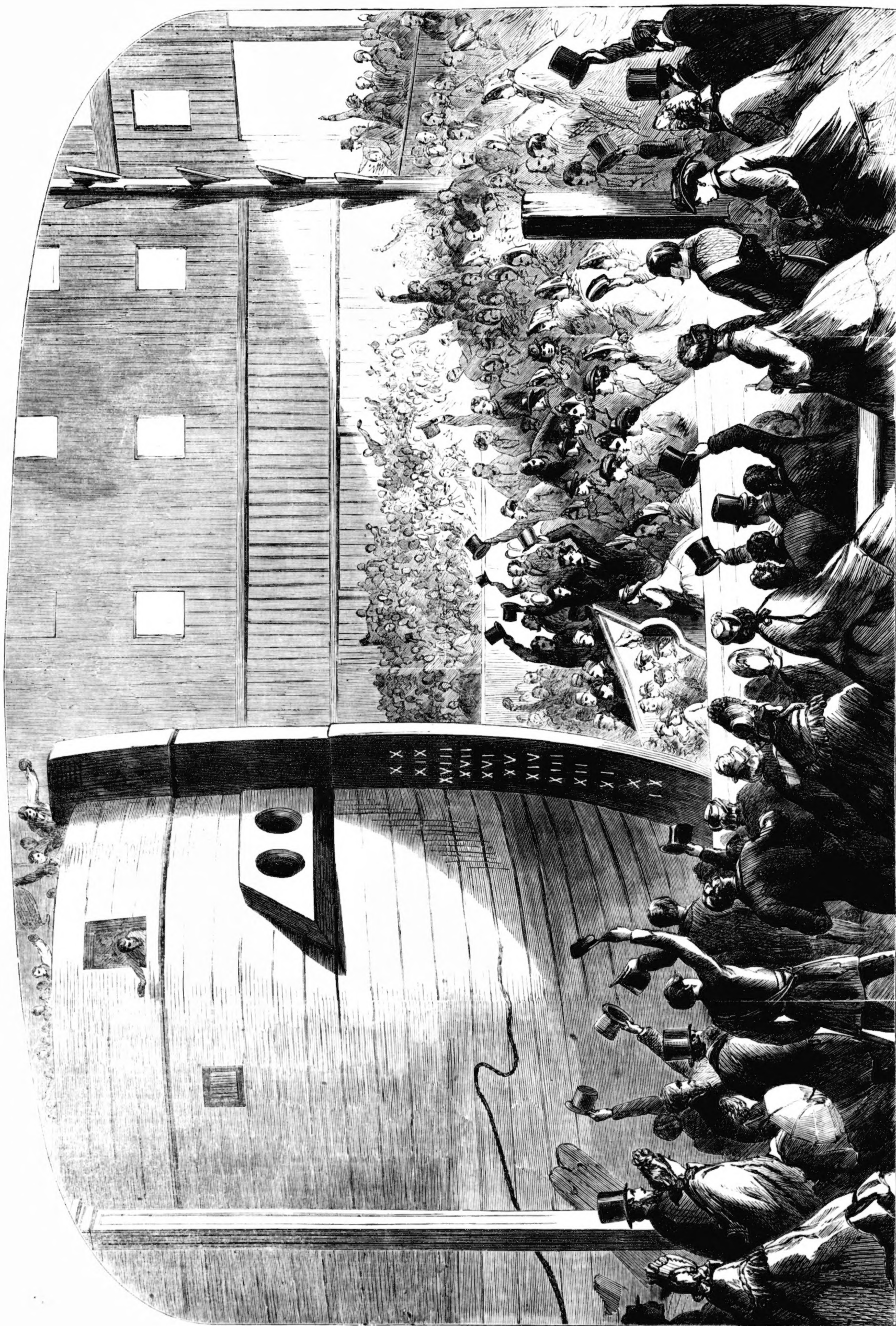
MR. GLADSTONE AT MANCHESTER.—Friday week was devoted by Mr. Gladstone to Manchester. He was welcomed on his arrival there as warmly as he had been at any other place, and the hall in which he replied to the address of the Corporation was especially crowded. Mr. Gladstone reviewed the proceedings of the Government during the last few years, defending their principal measures, especially the repeal of the paper duty, which, he said, had given the country cheap newspapers conducted with great ability, and whose efforts were successfully directed, by the diffusion of sound political information, to cementing the loyalty of the people to the Crown. He referred with much pathos to the wear and tear of political excitement on himself, and the necessity of looking to another future than that of continual agitation. Mr. Gladstone also addressed a crowd from the balcony of his hotel, and in the evening presented prizes to the successful competitors in the Oxford local examinations.

LIEBIG ON PHOSPHATES AND GUANO.—The letter from Baron Liebig to Lord Robert Montagu, on the utilisation of town sewage, which has just been published, though it may for a time damp the enthusiasm of the advocates of the application of sewage to the land, will do good service to agriculture by showing what sewage and guano will effect, and in what elements they are deficient. The constituents of these fertilisers are the same, but neither contains all the elements which ought to be restored to the land in order to render it permanently fertile. The percentage of phosphoric acid is so small, especially in sewage, that the stimulus which it gives to vegetation deprives the soil of that element, and in time completely exhausts it, causing, as he says, many a farmer to curse Peruvian guano as occasioning the worst sterility. Phosphates, on the other hand, contain this essential element in a very large proportion, and restore to the land that which is abstracted by the crop; for which reason the Baron recommends that where sewage is used phosphates should be added. The introduction into this country of the phosphate of lime, which exists so abundantly in Estremadura and Sombro, occurs opportunely for the prevention of the disappointment which, but for Liebig's warning, might have attended the application of sewage.

THE ROYAL SOVEREIGN.—Very considerable discussion has arisen owing to the Admiralty having put the *capo-bis* Royal Sovereign out of commission, instead of sending her to sea for further trial, Captain Cole's principle of construction having proved, it is alleged, more satisfactory than my Lord's. The *Times* and other journals have denounced the job, a semi-official paragraph appeared in the former paper, stating that the vessel required some alterations, her *haws-capes* having been injured by the firing of the heavy guns, and that Captain Osborn, some of his officers, and a few men would be retained on board. Another part of the explanatory paragraph terms the Royal Sovereign a "floating battery," not adapted to cruise with a squadron, with no masts, and decks too low for a sailing ship; and, therefore, to have tried her with the ships of the Channel Squadron would have been of no "practical use," and that for all future useful purposes the fact of her being attached to the *Excellent* as a tender would be sufficient. In contradiction to this statement, it is asserted that the defects alluded to by the Admiralty could have been rectified in a very short time in any private dockyard. In regard to the vessel being merely "a floating battery," the Portsmouth correspondent of the *Times* says:—"I believe the Royal Sovereign to be a floating battery certainly, not such as the war with Russia created, but a battery that would steam through a gale on fully equal terms with such vessels as the *Defence* and *Resistance*, and would fight her central guns under such conditions of wind and sea that the two vessels named could not cast their main-deck broad-side guns. Opinions are, of course, held on this very point, but it is this important matter that could have been effectively decided by a trial of the Royal Sovereign with the ships of the Channel Fleet, and, such a course, therefore, must have been attended with some 'practical use.'"

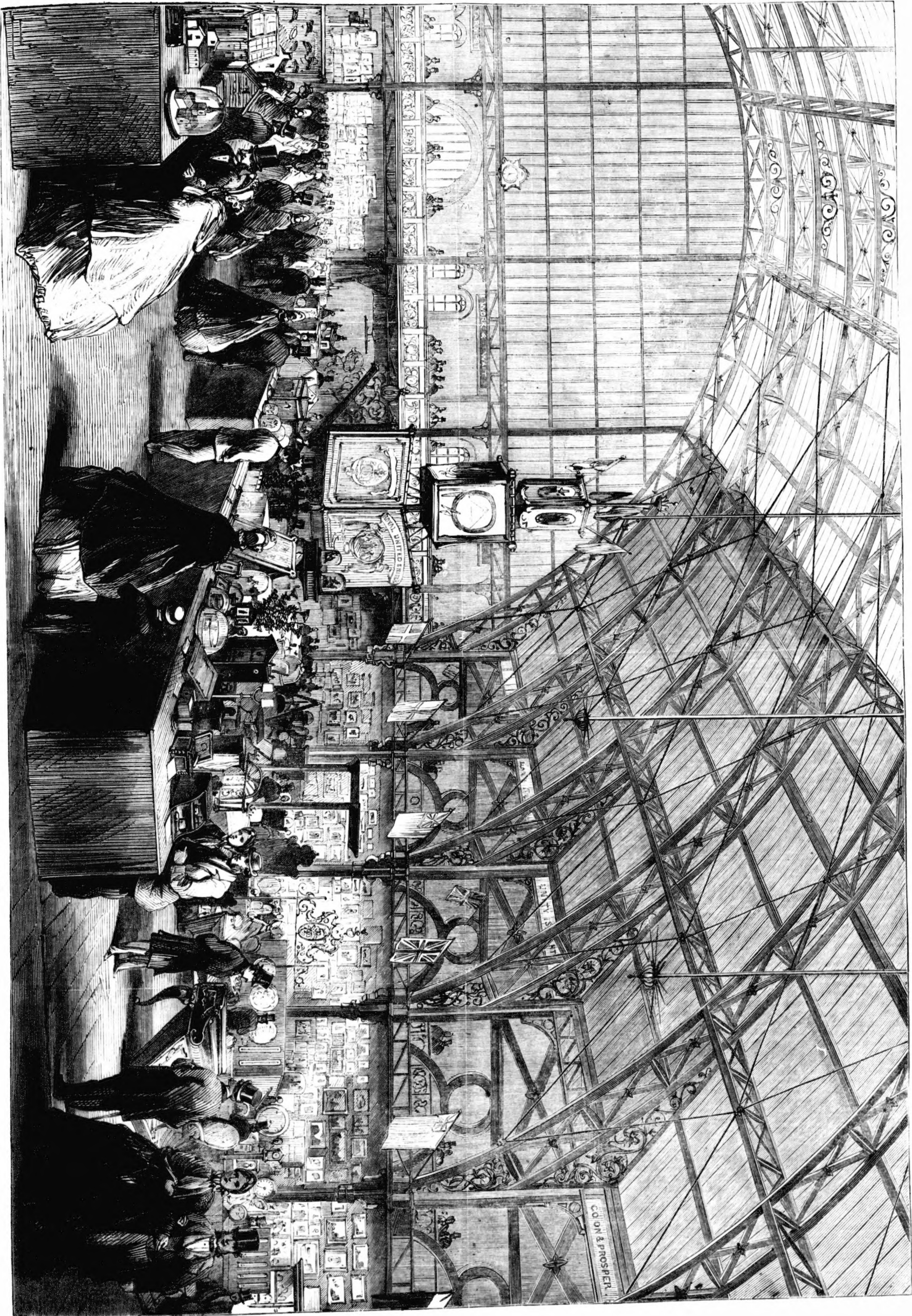
VIRGINIAN PICKETS.—A letter from Grant's army presents us with a few incidents of the intimate relations existing between hostile pickets:—"When the last salute was fired yesterday, there was some cross firing of words between the aroused pickets along our picket line. 'How are you, Atlanta?' called out one of our boys. 'You'd better try and take Petersburg now,' was the brief response. 'Sherman is after you fellows sharp,' said Yank. 'Won't you send some more of your coloured boys to take another mine?' asked Johnny. 'Don't you want some coffee and sugar?' inquired our men, tauntingly. 'Wouldn't you like to exchange your warm hard tack for our johnny cake?' replied the foe. This last bit was a hard one, and unexpected. Our poor soldiers do have shockingly poor bread and meat. The worms in it are very large and very lively. We did not know before that they had been seen from the enemy's works. There was more of this verbal sharpshooting. It is much practised nowadays. While the two lines are in such close proximity, no orders will prevent intercourse, even among those who are true and loyal to their respective sides. There is a corn-field between our lines at one point, a little to the left of Cemetery-hill. The opposite pickets will creep into that for an occasional friendly chat, or for a quarrel, or for a game at cards. Only think of it! two of them were playing a game a few days since with Abe Lincoln and Jeff Davis as imaginary stakes. The Lincolnite lost. 'There,' says the winner, 'Old Abe belongs to me.' 'Well, I'll send him over by the Petersburg express,' responded the defeated Yank. One day last week there had been lively shelling and some musketry firing in the forenoon. After dinner there was a slack of hostilities. A Johnny rose up on the parapet of his line, and shook a paper as a sign of truce; then sprang over into the corn-field. At once a hundred men from either line were over their works, and, side by side, swapping papers for papers, tobacco or jack-knives, hardtack or sugar, for corn-cakes. New acquaintances were made. In some instances, old acquaintances were revived. A Connecticut sergeant found a townsman and schoolmate in a sergeant from over the way. A Connecticut officer found a kinsman in a rebel officer. A loyal Maryland regiment was *vis-à-vis* with a Maryland rebel regiment. Many links of union were there. One found a brother on the other side, and yet another his own father. There was the romance of war for you! After a little time, the swapping of the day was done, and officers and men returned to their own lines. All was quiet again until the artillery reopened fire. Then a half score of loiterers sprang up from their concealment in the corn and scrambled back to their places behind the works. Thus, the fighting and the chatting alternate. Queer business, this war!"





THE LAUNCH OF THE IRON-CLAD SHIP-OF-WAR ROYAL ALFRED IN PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD.—(FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUT. SECCOMBE.)





THE NORTH LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.—SEE PAGE 356.



## ADDITIONS TO OUR IRONCLAD FLEET.

### ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF ARMOUR-PLATING OF SHIPS.

The progress lately made in constructing ships of war is enormous, and yet in reality it is not more than ten or eleven years since the fatal truth broke upon men that wooden ships were no better in a naval battle than just so many chip boxes. It was at Sinope that we first learnt that the being able to fire shells horizontally, and so set fire to a whole navy in ten minutes, would render necessary the reconstruction of all our naval armaments. The French were the first to appreciate the force of the lesson the Turks got from the Russians, and we, following their example, succeeded at last in producing four as ugly plated tubs as anybody ever imagined. They were called the *Glutton*, *Meteor*, *Trusty*, and *Thunderer*. To them were afterwards added the *Erebus*, *Terror*, *Thunderbolt*, and *Ena*. They were never intended for sea-boats, and will never be able to do more than protect the mouths of rivers and harbours. The *Thunderbolt*, in fact, has been moored in the Thames as a stationary battery for some time past. The next and most important step was the construction of vessels which could stand the sea, and yet be protected from shot. The *Warrior*, as everybody knows, was our first real experiment under the new order of things. She was built of iron by the Thames Iron Shipbuilding Company, from a design of the late Chief Constructor of the Navy, and has certainly, although our earliest attempt, been a complete success. Three other vessels—the *Black Prince*, the *Resistance*, and *Defence*—have been built essentially upon the same principle as that adopted in the *Warrior*. They are all plated in the centre only; and there is no doubt that, in this respect, they are defective. The *Achilles*, just finished and commissioned, was originally meant to be a sister ship to the *Warrior*; but the Admiralty have, since Mr. Reed's accession to office, introduced in her some most important alterations, with a view of correcting the evils which experience had revealed in her predecessor. The *Achilles*, like the *Warrior*, is completely protected in the centre only; but then all along the water-line is carried a band of iron effectually fortifying the vessel at the most vulnerable part. The next variation is offered by the *Hector* and *Valiant*, where the plating is carried over everything from stem to stern, with the exception of a portion of the water-line at each end. This arrangement is objectionable simply for the reason that it repeats the fault of the *Warrior*, and adds to the weight of the ship. In the *Northumberland*, *Minotaur*, *Agincourt*, and in the wooden vessels of the *Prince Consort* and *Royal Oak* class, the plating is carried all round. This perfect protection is gained, however, not without great disadvantages. Buoyancy is lost to a very great degree, and it must never be forgotten that a ship has to swim in all weathers as well as to fight.

After Mr. Reed became Chief Constructor a great step in advance was made. To keep up a fleet of *Warriors*, even if they could do what was required of them, would be out of the question, simply because of the expense. Mr. Reed, therefore, in his *Research* and *Enterprise*, tried to discover if it would be possible to protect small ships which should prove good sea-boats, and might be sent anywhere. He has perfectly succeeded. It is true that the *Enterprise*, of 990 tons and loaded with iron, can never be so fast under steam as an old wooden frigate of 2000 tons which had nothing but her engines and guns to carry; but nobody in his senses ever thought she would. Nine knots an hour were all that the Admiralty ever hoped for the *Enterprise*. She can do ten; and we ought to be perfectly satisfied. The *Warrior*, it is true, can do fifteen; but then the *Warrior* is six times the size of the *Enterprise*, and increase of tonnage is increase of proportionate engine-power and increase of speed.

Another style of naval architecture—the cupola-system, invented by Captain Coles and adopted extensively in America—has also been much under consideration of late; but, as we have only one specimen of this style—the *Royal Sovereign*—and as she has been declared by the Admiralty to be designed and adapted only for purposes of harbour defence, and not for seagoing, we need not specify the peculiarities of Captain Coles's system, particularly as the whole idea has already been fully explained and illustrated in our pages. Let us now proceed to give a brief description of the most recent additions to our iron-clad war-ships, beginning with

#### THE ROYAL ALFRED.

In the launch of this frigate, which took place at Portsmouth on Saturday last, and of which ceremony we publish the accompanying Engraving, the Admiralty have sent aloft another vessel which, when she has been clothed with her armour and fitted with her machinery, will be added to the list of England's ironclad fleet, and become one of the total number, which comprises some nine or ten descriptions of vessels, varying in all the extremes of tonnage, speed, and mode of construction which now form our somewhat heterogeneous collection of ironclads. The *Royal Alfred* is one of the *Prince Consort* and *Royal Oak* class, their frames designed and prepared as 92-gun screw line-of-battle ships, but afterwards cut down to a frigate's battery, altered in form at the bow and stern, and strengthened considerably in every part to carry the weight of 4½ in. armour-plating. The *Royal Alfred* was ordered to be built as a line-of-battle ship in October, 1859, of the following general dimensions:—Length between perpendiculars, 252 ft.; length of keel for tonnage, 213 ft. 9½ in.; breadth extreme, 58 ft.; breadth for tonnage, 57 ft. 2 in.; breadth moulded, 56 ft. 4 in.; depth in hold, 19 ft. 10 in.; burden in tons, 5715 62 94. The ship was accordingly laid down and nearly completed in accordance with these orders, when, after the work had been suspended on her for some time, just at the period when wooden liners had become universally acknowledged as useless to compete with iron-clad frigates, a second order relative to the ship was issued from the Admiralty in June, 1861, which on this occasion directed that the ship's upper deck, so far as it had been constructed, should be removed, and the necessary alterations and strengthening of her frame carried out, to complete her as an iron-clad frigate. Under these new conditions, the *Royal Alfred* has been sufficiently completed to be launched from off the shipway on which she has been constructed; her hull shorn externally of all aids to her beauty, her bows without the "figure-head" which has existed as part of a ship from the times of the Phœnicians, or the curved lines of headrail and cut-water, and her stern without the ornamental quarter-galleries, and reduced to a bare conical termination, the apex projecting over and protecting the fixed screw and rudder. Her length is now increased beyond her original dimensions to 273 ft. between perpendiculars and 283 ft. on her keel, and her tonnage increased to 4045 26 94, while her breadth remains the same. On Saturday last, as, previous to launching, she lay on her blocks, with her vast hull painted black, and without other ornament than the gaily-decorated bottle of wine suspended from the stem for the "christening," she looked like some antediluvian monster. A few minutes before ten a.m. Miss Alice Cradock, the daughter of the master-shipwright, was led forward, and, with great grace, broke the bottle against the ship's stem, at the same time uttering the customary wish, "Success to the *Royal Alfred*." The ship was named, but not yet quite freed. Some ten blocks under her keel remained to be split off, but the most of these were soon dealt with, and Miss Cradock, having a small mallet placed in her hands, struck a blow on a sharp chisel held against the cord on the ship's stem which kept suspended the iron "dogs," when the latter descended in their grooved channels and knocked clear the dogshores, which alone now held the ship on the ways. A few moments only of suspense, accompanied by groaning and creaking sounds, and the ship started and slid with a gentle rush into the water, amid ringing cheers from thousands of spectators.

Like others of her class, the *Royal Alfred* does not look much handsomer afloat than she did on the stocks; but in the absence of beauty there is evident fitness for fighting purposes as a broadside ship, looking at her superficially as she lay broadside on to the building-shed, and brought up in that position by her anchor immediately after being launched. If the launching scene be now left, and the reader transported on board the *Royal Alfred*, the ship may be inspected from another point of view. The upper deck is at present clear fore and aft, after the fashion of our best specimens of

wooden screw-frigates, with the exception that a fore-castle is being constructed at the fore end of the deck and lines are laid out for the erection of a poop at the after end—the first being a covered-in space of the deck, which may be appropriated to the accommodation of the crew; and the second a similar space, for the accommodation of an admiral and his suite—the *Royal Alfred* being destined as a flag-ship—thus meeting the difficulty hitherto experienced in providing such accommodation for the officer commanding a fighting fleet. The upper deck of the *Royal Alfred* is composed of the ordinary wooden planking; but this is laid upon an iron deck of half-inch boiler plate, which, strengthened and tied by edge and butt straps of iron of equal thickness, and by fore and aft stringer rows of plates, rests upon rolled iron beams which span the ship at short intervals. Descending from this upper to the main or gun deck below, the ship is here found to give, from appearances, her greatest promise of future efficiency as a man-of-war; and at the same time, on close examination, she exhibits her inefficiency as such in common with her sisters of the same class. The deck, from beam to floor, is of good height; there is ample room for working the guns of the battery fore and aft; the means of ventilation for carrying off the smoke in rapid firing are good; and, to crown all, the entire deck, round the stem and stern, as well as on the broadside, is protected by 4½ in. rolled armour-plates, from the Atlas Works, Sheffield. So far for efficiency. As to her inefficiency, all this capital arrangement of gun battery, roomy quarters, and ventilation, protected by the best of all armour-plating, is supported only by some eighteen inches of timber, without any inner iron lining, and the consequences in action would be that steel shot from guns of any power would go completely through the side of the ship fired at and knock off the armour-plates from the opposite side; and if only cast-iron shot were fired from the ordinary 68-pounder smooth-bore gun, although the shot would not penetrate into the ship, yet the splinters flung off from the unlined ship's side internally, by the impact of the shot upon the armour-plates, would be sufficient to disable all the men at the guns. Descending lower into the ship, workmen are found busily employed fitting the mess, berthing, &c., for the crew; and still lower may be seen the preparations made for the reception of her machinery. Neither machinery nor armour-plates yet form parts of the *Royal Alfred*, and both will have now to be fitted in dock or in the floating-basins of Portsmouth yard, as may be required, according to the progress of the ship's outfit. The engines will be of the united power of 800 horses, nominal, from the establishment of Messrs. Maudslays, Field, and Co., the latter fact being a sufficient guarantee for their excellence. The lower masts of the ship are splendid specimens of iron manufacture, from the works of Messrs. Finch, of Chesham. The *Royal Alfred* is pierced for thirty-five guns, but, with the rapid strides now being made in the calibres of naval ordnance, it would be useless to speculate upon what her armament may eventually be.

#### THE LORD CLYDE.

Another valuable addition to our squadron of iron-clad vessels of war has just been made by the launch from Pembroke Dockyard, on Thursday afternoon week, of the iron-plated frigate *Lord Clyde*, the first of the new iron-cased vessels of war of the largest size and dimensions designed by and constructed under the immediate superintendence of Mr. E. J. Reed, the present Chief Constructor of the Navy. The *Lord Clyde* is a wooden ship, but plated completely round, from stem to stern, above her water-line, with plates of enormous size and thickness.

The floating of this ship deserves special notice on account of the very great peculiarities introduced into her construction. From bow to stern, from keel to gunwale, from outside to inside, she is a succession of novelties, which, whether improvements or not, are certainly most remarkable. The stem is formed in a manner the very reverse to which the public eye has become accustomed by the usage of ages. Instead of extending forward above the water, with a "knee-of-the-head" decorated with a figure, it falls backward above the water, and is covered with solid and ponderous armour, through which guns will fire right ahead, or in the direction of the ship's keel when chasing an enemy. Below the water the bow protrudes into an enormous beak or prow, the front of which is armed with a huge sharpened wedge of metal, weighing many tons, for cleaving through the bottom of an enemy. The bottom of the ship amidships, instead of being of the once approved peg-top form, is almost as flat as the floor of a house, being made so not only to prevent the ship from rolling, but also to support the immense machinery which is to drive this monstrous vessel through the sea, at the rate of about sixteen statute miles an hour, and the magnitude of which may be roughly estimated from the fact that it will weigh but little, if any, short of 1000 tons, and will do the work of 6000 horses. The stern of the ship is scarcely less novel than the bow, being formed so as to surround and protect from shot the rudderhead and steering apparatus, and to carry all over it a sheeting of thick iron armour.

Throughout the entire length of the *Lord Clyde* the water-line will be protected with plates nearly six inches thick, weighing from seven to ten tons each, and extending to several feet below the water. The gun-deck, guns, and gunners will be within the shelter of an iron casing fully six inches thick, part of it being worked upon the timber frames of the ship and part upon the outside of the plank. Space is afforded on the deck for guns of the very largest kind yet in use in ships, and for working such guns with all needful facility. The magazines for powder and shell are situated low down in the hold of the ship, and are the most capacious ever yet provided in a man-of-war. The cabins and quarters for the 600 officers and men who will form the "complement," are not yet built up, but provision for lighting and ventilating them are in progress. In addition to the steam power, an effective rig will be fitted, to enable the ship to cruise under canvas and thus economise her fuel.

The following figures will show her principal dimensions:—Length between the perpendiculars, 280 ft.; length of keel, for tonnage, 233 ft. 11 in.; breadth extreme, 58 ft. 9 in.; breadth for tonnage, 57 ft. 2 in.; breadth moulded, 56 ft. 4 in.; depth in hold, 20 ft. 9 in.; burden in tons, 4067 26 94.

#### THE BELLEROPHON.

This ship, now being built at Chatham Dockyard, from the plans and under the superintendence of Mr. Reed, embodies nearly all the experience we have gained; but, in addition, she includes some most important novelties. She is of iron, and will be full-rigged, carrying four iron masts, and drawing 26 ft. aft and 21 ft. forward. The first improvement we notice about her is that she is about a hundred feet shorter than the largest-sized vessels which we have as yet constructed. Her extreme length is 318 ft., and her length between the perpendiculars 300 ft.; her extreme breadth being 56 ft. This diminution in length will not only have the effect of rendering her much more handy, but will, of course, reduce very much her cost. Her engines, being of very high power—1000 horses, and really working up to 6000—will send her through the water at about fifteen knots an hour, about the same speed as the *Achilles* has attained. Her offensive and defensive resources are these:—In the first place there is her plating. This, as in the case of the *Warrior*, completely covers the side of the vessel in the centre to some distance below the water-line. In addition we have the belt of iron running along the water-line, one of the principal features of the *Achilles*, *Research*, *Enterprise*, and *Favourite*. Near the bow of the vessel this belt is extended upwards, to cover a battery of two 110-pounders, of which more hereafter. In the thickness of her armour she is very strong. Altogether, in addition to the wooden backing, she has seven and a half inches of iron, through which a shot has to make its way before getting inside, the outside plates being six inches and the thin plates one and a half inch thick. The *Minotaur* has only six inches, and the *Warrior* only five. Practically, therefore, we may say that nothing we have yet built is so efficiently defended as the *Bellerophon* will be. For offence she has a ram of immense strength projecting under the water, wherewith, if she has the chance, she may endeavour to run down an enemy. Her armament will be very heavy. The number of guns will not be great, but they will be of vast power. There will

be in the centre battery ten 300-pounders, and in the forward battery two 110-pounders, all of which will be, as we have seen, amply protected. Aft there will be three 110-pounders, and in the bow one 10-pounder not protected. Altogether there will be sixteen guns, the weight of the broadside thrown being 1120 pounds of metal. The 300-pounders, it will be observed, throw only 150-pound round shot; the 300-pounder is an oblong bolt, for which the naval Armstrong is not yet rified. The peculiarities in the construction of the ship are very many. The weakness of iron vessels has always been their bottom—a weakness particularly to be guarded against where such an enormous mass of metal has to be carried on the sides. The *Bellerophon*, consequently, has a double bottom, something like that of the *Great Eastern*, but with one very distinctive addition. In the *Great Eastern* the second or inner bottom rests on ribs or girders, as a non-professional person would call them, running longitudinally along the vessel. These are crossed in the *Bellerophon* by other girders at right angles, giving immense rigidity and strength. Their intersection divides the ship, of course, into compartments, and, as the inner bottom is perfectly watertight, any hole accidentally knocked in the bottom would fill one compartment and no more. The space between the inner and outer bottom is sufficiently large to enable work to be done in it with ease, so that it can be kept painted and clean without any difficulty. In addition to the ordinary transverse bulkheads, there are iron bulkheads running along the side from stem to stern, forming an inner space, within which any damage from the outside could be shut off and localised, and also contributing a great increase of stiffness to the whole structure.

One of the peculiarities which will distinguish the *Bellerophon* will be the introduction of what is called the "balanced rudder," discovered by Lord Stanhope about seventy or eighty years ago, but which has not met hitherto with any very great success, for reasons which we shall understand in a moment. It consists simply in the addition of another and smaller rudder to the principal one, and in the same plane with it. The axis of the ordinary rudder is entirely on one side. The axis of the balanced rudder has about two thirds of the rudder on one side and one third on the other. This other one third has simply the effect of an addition to the power necessary to hold the wheel in position on deck. The water from the screw impinging on the smaller blade does, in fact, act exactly in the same way as an increase of leverage applied to the tiller—a matter of no small consequence, seeing that the *Black Prince* requires in a gale of wind twenty or thirty men to steer her. The reason why this invention has not been adopted in any of our men-of-war is, that it necessitates the abandonment of the rudder-post, in order that both blades may have full play and receive the full force of the water. In the *Bellerophon* there will be no rudder-post, and the rudder will be supported from the deck, the lower end passing into a prolongation of the plates of the keel. The steering will ordinarily be from the stern, but during action it will be from the centre of the vessel, in a kind of rifle-tower on deck about 11 ft. high, armoured with 6-in. plates. From this tower there will be telegraphic communication with the engine-room and batteries, so that the captain will have everything necessary for working the vessel immediately under his own eye.

Such will be the *Bellerophon*; but the best part of the story remains yet to be told. Although she will be about as efficient, we believe, as any ship we have, she will cost nearly £100,000 less than either the *Warrior* or *Achilles*.

**LORD WODEHOUSE'S ANCESTRY.**—"Heraldicus, in the *Irish Times*, says that Lord Wodehouse ranks, in ancestral position, hereditary distinction, and family alliances, with the best of the English nobility. The Wodehouses are, to use the expression of an old writer, of 'stupendous' antiquity. One of their ancestors was a knight in the time of Henry Beauclerk; another, a gallant soldier under Henry V., was given the motto of 'Agincourt' (a motto still borne by Lord Wodehouse), for his prowess on that memorable field; a third was created a Knight of the Bath at the Royal nuptials of Henry VIII.'s son, Prince Arthur; and a fourth, Sir Philip Wodehouse, of Kimberley, knighted by the Earl of Essex, for his valour at the capture of Cadix, was included in the first creation of baronets on the institution of the Order. Besides being the male representative of this grand old English race, Lord Wodehouse is heir-general of the Lords Berkeley of Stratton, coheir of the Barons of Norfolk, and the Armistees of Lincolnshire, and a descendant of 'Benedict Will Howard' of Naworth, the founder of Lord Carlisle's immediate family. 'Stat fortuna domus, et avi numerantur avorum.'

**THE LATE EXPLOSION NEAR ERITH.**—The inquest on the bodies of the unfortunate persons killed in the explosion near Erith was resumed on Tuesday. The damage done by the fearful accident is still visible in the shattered windows and damaged brickwork of scores of houses in the neighbourhood. Several witnesses were called to prove that the barrels in which Messrs. Hall's powder was placed were sound, and not leaky. The architect who constructed some of the magazines was examined, and deposed that nothing which could tend to their safety was omitted. In some points, however, his evidence was contradicted. Finally, the inquest was adjourned for a fortnight. After the rising of the Court the Coroner and jury inspected one of Mr. Hall's barges, then lying in the river. It is stated that the barge was in every respect most insecure, and that, by its arrangements, an explosion was almost invited. The inhabitants of Chatham held a meeting on Monday to protest against the continued proximity of the great magazines of powder at Upnor Castle; and a memorial to the Government was unanimously adopted.

**DESTRUCTIVE COLLISION ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.**—On Tuesday morning a most destructive collision took place on the Great Northern Railway, at Grantham. The disaster occurred with two Manchester goods-trains, laden with valuable merchandise, consisting of tea, silks, &c. One of the trains left Peterborough at 12.30, and the other at 12.50. The latter train ran into the former at full speed while standing at Grantham station, and the force of the collision was terrific, as the train was travelling at the rate of between thirty and forty miles an hour. Twelve trucks were completely smashed up, and both the up and down lines were literally strewn with tea. One truck was cut clean in two, each half standing some distance apart from the other on two wheels. The driver of the 12.50 train and the fireman were so seriously injured that their recovery is despair of. Great delay was of necessity occasioned to the traffic, but towards the end of the day the line was again cleared. As to the cause of the disaster nothing is known, for the two men who alone can explain it are so much injured that no statement can be obtained from them. There is a clear reach, so that they must have seen the train into which they were running, and the most plausible suggestion is that the driver had lost all command of his engine. The damage to property is immense.

**TRIALS OF NEW LIFE-BOATS.**—On Wednesday some harbour trials of three new life-boats, to be stationed on the Lincolnshire coast, took place in the Regent's Canal Dock, Limehouse. A large number of persons had assembled to witness them. The boats are all of the same size, being respectively 30 ft. long, 7 ft. 3 in. wide, and rowing eight oars, double banks. Their self-righting qualities were fully and satisfactorily tested on the occasion. The water each boat shipped was self-ejected, through patent valves, in twenty-five seconds. The boats were built by Messrs. Forrest and Son, of Limehouse. The transporting-carriages of the boats, which were built by Mr. J. Robinson, of Kentish Town, were also tried on the occasion, and were found to answer admirably. Much interest was excited by a sailor making some experiments in the water with one of the cork jackets supplied to each man forming the crews of the institution life-boats. The sailor seemed to be able to do what he liked, with the belt on, in the water; for its buoyancy was so great that he could not possibly sink, even if he could not swim. It is a remarkable fact that, although the life-boats of the society were manned last year by about 6000 persons, not a single life was lost from them during the fearful weather they were often exposed to when afloat. The cost of the life-boats (amounting to about £800) has been presented to the National Life-boat Institution by different benevolent persons. The Donna Nook life-boat is called the North Briton, after a ship on board which the donors had made a long and prosperous voyage. The Theddlethorpe life-boat is called the Dorinda and Barbara, the gift of two attached friends; and the Skegness life-boat is named the Herbert Ingram, after the late much respected representative in Parliament of Boston, who, with his son, lost his life in a collision or shipwreck on an American lake. The life-boat will be publicly exhibited at Boston on Monday next, on her way to Skegness. Commodious and substantial boat-houses have been erected for the life-boats. The Great Northern Railway Company have readily promised the life-boats a free conveyance over their line. The Rev. R. W. Crocroft, of Harrington, has been most zealous, in conjunction with other friends in Lincolnshire, in rendering to the National Life-boat Institution every assistance in the renovation of the Lincolnshire life-boat establishments, which were last winter transferred to the institution. The fourth life-boat, to be stationed at Sutton, will be on her station in December, next. The National Life-boat Institution has now 187 life-boats under its management. The Rev. Charles Smith, of Newton Rectory, Suffolk, has forwarded £5 3s. to the National Life-boat Institution being the amount of the harvest thanksgiving offering made at his church on the 12th inst. Mr. Smith says that the offering, small as it is compared with those of wealthy congregations, is one of the largest he had known at Newton during a residence of thirty years.



## OUR FEUILLETON.

## THE POWDER MAGAZINES AT PURFLEET.

(From the Times.)

JUST now public attention is keenly directed to a thorough examination of the conditions under which powder is stored in Government and private magazines, and the precautions which are, or ought to be, taken to mitigate the risk with which the mere presence of these tremendous mines threatens whole districts. That great good will ultimately arise from this investigation cannot be doubted for a moment, and, if the evidence given at the Belvedere inquiry as to the neglect of proper care in Mr. Hall's magazines is to be relied on, the public cannot be too earnest in their efforts for complete and searching inquiry. At any rate, the question has not been of their raising, but has, on the contrary, been forced on their attention in the most terrible manner possible. The appalling proofs of the explosion spread far and wide round Erith show the danger in which the inhabitants have lived, and the evidence given at the inquiry shows them also the hourly peril in which they must be content to dwell for the future, unless these terrible storehouses are better built and better regulated than they seem to have been in the case of the magazines on Erith marshes. We do not for a moment entertain the belief that it will ever be possible to do away with powder magazines, and magazines, too, containing vast stores of powder collected on one spot. Bread is not more necessary to our individual life than gunpowder is to our national. Good powder is only to be got from England. Our export trade of this explosive material is larger than that of all the rest of the world; while, peaceful people as we are, our annual consumption in fleets, forts, and colonies, is almost as great as that of all the rest of Europe put together. But we apprehend that even those who have been ruined round Erith would not for a second deny the necessity for large powder magazines; and as a rule powder when in the magazines is in the safest place which experience or human ingenuity can devise to store it. It is from powder in transit that all the danger really arises. It is the lax state of the law as to powder barges, or what are used as such—the lax state of the law as to what number of barrels they shall carry, and what regulations shall be enforced as to lights and fires on board, which not only endangers the magazines to which they are bound, but actually perils the very existence of the metropolis itself in their passage up the Thames. The inquiry into the general management of these powder barges of private firms cannot be too searching, nor the regulations under which, in future, the perilous traffic should be carried on too strictly nor too rigidly enforced.

Since the disaster at Erith a great deal has been said as to the general management of the Government magazines at Purfleet, and all sorts of statements have appeared as to the quantity of powder which is kept there, and the risks to which it is exposed. We purpose, therefore, to give the public a plain account of how Purfleet is managed and what it contains. If, on the one hand, we state that the powder stored there is enormous—enough in quantity to appal the boldest when they think of the chances of accident—on the other hand, we shall be bound to admit that everything which the experience of a century, the progress of science, and even imaginative and over-scrupulous fears can suggest in the way of precaution has been adopted. If ever Purfleet blows up—and if it does London will be the first to know it—the accident will not be caused by Purfleet proper, but will be due to some one or other of the barges always landing or receiving powder there. The quantity of powder that blew up at Erith the other day was less than 1000 barrels, or short of fifty tons. The quantity that Purfleet stores is 52,000 barrels, or 2300 tons. It is not the largest magazine in the kingdom. There is another within four miles of one of our most important seaport towns, which stores nearly 4000 tons. This latter, however, is a mere surplus storehouse, which is rarely opened—a vault where the powder is entombed and carefully guarded. Another, which we have no scruple in mentioning, for its situation is a disgrace to the Admiralty—Upnor Castle—contains some 1500 or 1600 tons of powder. Sheerness and Chatham, with their forts and dockyards, would cease to be even geographical expressions if anything went wrong with the constantly-opened magazine which is in their midst under Upnor Castle. There are other magazines, too, in different parts of the kingdom, which are as large as Purfleet; but these are mere magazines—i.e., storehouses, which are seldom opened or required but in time of war. The importance of Purfleet consists in its being the great receiving-house where every atom of powder used by the Government—whether made at their own works at Waltham Abbey, or privately at Dartford, Faversham, or Hounslow—is landed, examined, tested, and, if approved, passed into store; and if rejected returned at once to the barges. Thus, in the ordinary fulfilment of its duties, not a day passes without the magazine being open—scarcely a day in which it has not either to test, receive, or send away loads of powder. When first established, a century ago, the magazine was isolated from everything. Now there is a village close to it, and beautiful villas are scattered over the country around it far and near. The ground occupied by the Government is about twenty-five acres, and this is mostly moated round and walled and re-walled in almost a series of concentric circles about the magazines. There is a permanent guard of two officers and eighty men, with a large staff of watchmen, coopers, storekeepers, overseers, clerks, &c., all of whom, with their wives and families, live within the walls in the "garrison," as it is termed. Everyone, no matter how remotely connected with the works in this part of the garrison, even the tailor who makes the flannel dress, and the shoemaker who stitches the soft leather shoes to be worn in the magazine, is on the staff, and has to conform to the rules of being within the walls before nine, and having all lights and fires out in the quarters by half-past ten. Yet, large as is this staff, the "powder-men," the actual workers in the magazine, are only nineteen in number, and all these are the sons, in some cases the grandsons, of those who first worked here. They have lived among powder all their lives, and are familiar with everything but its explosive character; for at Purfleet, as at all Government magazines there has never been an accident. The first accident here would be the last, and would lay half Kent, Middlesex, and Surrey in ruins. The visitor who is fortunate enough to obtain the rarely accorded permission to inspect these magazines is taken charge of by no less a person than the chief of the establishment, Mr. Cleeve, whose vigilance regards even a visitor as a possible source of danger, and therefore to be intrusted to no hands save his own. Passing through the sentries and a series of doors you come to one at which the watchman is on duty, which admits to a small turfed inclosure between high walls, where a sentry is pacing on a little strip of a path laid in the grass. This is the last of the sentries; for near at hand is the magazine-ground, where, to the cautious eyes of the powder-men, a sentry, with his steel equipments, would be regarded with as much favour as a bonfire. Beyond the sentry is a small cooorage, which leads to a long, low, narrow room with a wooden partition, about 2 ft. high, running across the floor, separating one end from the other. At the end you enter hang workmen's clothes and shoes; at the other, beyond the partition, which is magazine ground, all the flannel dresses and soft leather shoes are kept. At the nothing but flannel dresses and soft leather shoes are kept. At the further end of the room you leave your walking-stick, or umbrella, or knife, or anything that is of iron or steel. Here, too, for the same reason, you pull off your boots, and, in case of mud or grit being on your dress, have furthermore to clothe yourself in a loose flannel blouse and trousers. Then only do you step over the partition to put on a pair of the soft, stitched leather boots. Having thus fulfilled all the "strict conditions which the duty of the 'clothesman' imposes on you, he opens the last door of all, which admits you to a spacious grass-grown inclosure, crossed in all directions with little wooden pathways, and in the centre of which stand five large, low, blind-looking buildings. They have no windows, but many lightning conductors; all their doors are open, and you can just see through the half gloom the great tiers of powder-barrels stacked in blocks like gigantic wine-bins. Nothing strikes the visitor more than the

silence of this place. The nineteen powder-men employed here are all busy, for at the wharf in front of the magazines one vessel has to be loaded and another unloaded; so that the passage of the copper barrows, each with their two barrels of powder, is incessant, yet still there is no noise. The barrows move silently, and the men, in their soft shoes, seem to glide over the polished woodwork without a sound. Not a word is spoken; and the dry creaking of the barrels in the magazines, as they are moved from tier to tier, comes with a sound which here is almost noise. Occasionally, as some less full than others are lifted down, one can hear the dry, hissing rattle of the grains as they turn over; but this, and the actual creaking of the somewhat thin barrels, and the soft rumble of the trucks taking them away, is all that can be distinguished. Outside, on the wharf, one can hear the sound of gentle hammering, with occasional words of direction; but within the magazines themselves all is as quiet and almost as dark as night. There is a regularity, a method, and an evidence of careful supervision everywhere which insensibly imparts a feeling of perfect security even in the gloomiest of the high, narrow passages which wind among the stacks of powder.

The external aspect of these magazines, with their lean-to roofs and stable-looking architecture, gives no idea of their real features of construction. To use a familiar image, each magazine is constructed like two railway arches, which are built of the strength called bombproof, and afterwards covered over with the sloping roof and walls with which all acquainted with the river are so familiar. There are five of these buildings, and each is fitted to allow the storage of forty-four "lots," of 200 barrels in each lot, with two end lots of 100 barrels, making the contents of each magazine 10,400 barrels, or 52,000 barrels in the whole five. Sometimes this quantity has been exceeded by 2000 or 3000 barrels being stored in the passages between the "lots" or bins, but it is always sought to avoid this if possible. As a general rule, there is never more than 52,000 barrels, nor less than 42,000. The latter quantity only is now in store. Though we speak of them as five magazines, yet in reality all five are one. There is not more than 50 ft. between each wall, and all are kept with open end and side doors during the day, except during the time the workmen are at dinner, when the thickly-plated double copper doors are closed and the keys resigned to Mr. Cleeve, who alone of all the staff can enter the magazines at any hour of the day or night. Every lot or bin is numbered, with the even numbers on one side, the odd on the other; and each lot contains solely the sample of one manufacturer, whether private or Government, with the maker's name and date of its reception, and the letters "L. G.," "L. G. R.," and "E. R.," denoting large grain for common powder, large grain rifle for rifled guns, and "E. R." for the best kinds used only for Enfield rifles.

Thus, so perfect is the system of storing that at any hour of the day or night the exact bins or lots can be found by the powder-men, and either stored away or taken out for shipment. In fact the magazines are generally so dark that daylight makes but little difference in the gloom of their interior, and during the Crimean War, when the demand for powder was loud and urgent, the powder-men in relays worked night and day through the darkest winter nights—as a matter of course without lights, but, what is not a matter of course, without ever making a single mistake as to the "lots" and quantities ordered for shipment. In some of the gloomiest parts of the magazine a piece of copper framed in wood, like a hand-mirror, and tinned over so as to reflect a light upon the name and number of the barrels, is kept for use, but it is a mere formal piece of magazine furniture, and seldom called into requisition, so well do the men know the exact position of each barrel. It is almost needless to say that no lights or ironwork of any kind are ever allowed to approach even the outer walls which inclose the magazine building, and the most jealous scrutiny is maintained to see that not an atom of dust comes into the stores. The brickwork of the massive arches is lined with pegged boarding, which its like cabinet-work, to guard against the falling of a grain of dirt from the masonry. Incessantly are men employed in sweeping and sprinkling the wooden tramways not only inside the magazine, but on all the wooden paths around it. A careful examination of the refuse thus brought together by the brooms only shows a stuffy kind of mixture almost entirely composed of hair off the blankets used, or wool from the workmen's dresses. Of dust, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, there is scarcely a trace, and of powder, or of anything which could be supposed to resemble it, there is absolutely nothing. The barrels are never rolled, but are wheeled in barrows, as we have said, two at a time. A leaky powder barrel is almost unknown at Purfleet, so rare is its occurrence, though some of the barrels have been in use since 1808 and 1813. When it does happen that a barrel leaks it is never placed in the magazine, but at once removed in a hide to the examination-house, and its contents changed to a new barrel. There can be no question, however, but that all powder barrels are made too slight, and that a law which will render it compulsory to have powder barrels water-tight would at once do away with more than half the chances of accident from powder, especially when in transit from port to port or from mills to magazines. The great rules at Purfleet are, first, that nothing but powder is admitted to the magazines—that is to say, that portfires, rockets, shells, &c., are excluded with as much vigilance as if they were lights. The second rule is, that no powder, not even half an ounce, is ever left out of the magazines; the third, that nothing is ever done in a magazine but to lift in powder and lift it out again. To attempt to open or cooper a cask in the magazine, which Messrs. Curtis and Harvey's workman speaks of as being done habitually by them, would at Purfleet lead to instant and final dismissal. It is impossible to condemn this practice of working in the magazines too strongly. In one important respect, however, Purfleet has departed from its safe and wholesome rule of not admitting anything but powder to its magazines. Quarter-barrels and half-barrels of rifle ball-cartridges are now often stored there. Considering that it is still a doubtful question whether the greased cartridges do not heat when kept long in store, this deviation from the old rule seems at least to be questionable as regards its safety. In face of the gigantic issues at stake in case of an accident at Purfleet, would it not be more wise to avoid even a suspicion of calamity by storing the cartridges elsewhere? For the rest, as far as general precautions are concerned, nothing seems to be neglected. The alarm-bell is rung when there is any appearance of thunder in the air, that the doors and all the apertures of the magazines may be closed at once. This precaution is a wise one, though it would savour much more of precaution in its real sense if the antiquated lightning conductors which now cover each low-lying magazine were at once removed from the buildings themselves and placed higher on poles around them. During the night the watchmen have to admit the guard outside the magazine each hour, and the sentries themselves have to strike each quarter hour of their watch upon large bells, so that any want of vigilance in this respect is so easily discovered that it becomes almost impossible. In fact, as regards the magazines, the care which is taken of them leaves nothing to be suggested nor nothing to be desired, except, perhaps, that they were further away from London.

But the Purfleet magazines have to be regarded from three points of view—first, as a place where powder can be stored; secondly, as a place for the transshipment of powder to and fro; and, thirdly, as a place for testing powder. These are its three great working aspects as regards the Government; though, as regards the general public, there is still another view to be taken of the whole, which is Purfleet as a place of safety. Looking only at Purfleet as a mere place of storage for powder, there is no doubt that it is safe enough. As far as its storage is concerned there seems no chance of accident unless from "unavoidable calamity." What that calamity would be to England our readers may guess by bearing in mind that less than fifty tons exploded at Erith; and that Purfleet, as a rule, stores 2300 tons. As a place for testing powder, Purfleet, with its tremendous magazines of explosives, seems objectionable. Government cannot manufacture at Waltham Abbey much more than half the powder it requires, and has therefore to buy at the rate of

some 25,000 or 30,000 barrels a year from private firms. All this powder, whether from private houses or Waltham, is tested for cleanliness, strength, and absorption of moisture at Purfleet, the private firms being allowed to be 5 per cent under the Government standard in each case, though why we cannot see.

Supposing a firm to send in 1000 barrels, ten per cent, or one hundred barrels, are opened, and a small sample taken from each, when all the samples are mixed together. These samples are inspected in the "examining room," which is a little apart from the magazines. It is lined with raw hides, and a bank of earth divides it from the powder-houses. Still, though the same care is used here as in the magazines, the mere fact of 200 barrels of powder being sometimes open at one time makes this a risky and objectionable feature of the Purfleet establishment. The samples taken are first tested for dust and dirt, and then for weight per cubic foot in comparison with that of the Government. Having fulfilled these standards, it is removed to a totally different part of the establishment outside the walls, where it is tested first for "flashing" on glass, to see that it leaves no improper or foul residuum. Next, two ounces of it are tested for strength in a small Gomer mortar, loaded with a 6-lb. solid shot. The "L. G." powder (large grain) throws this shot 268 ft.; the "E. G." (fine grain), 276 ft.; the "E. R." (Enfield rifle), 320 ft.; and the "A. I." or "L. G. R." (large-grain rifle), with three ounces, throws it 266 ft. Any powder throwing the shot less than 240 ft. is rejected. These, however, are not the only tests. What remains of the samples after firing is placed in chests bored on the top and sides with numerous holes—the Government powder being similarly placed in other chests. In this state it is left for twenty-one days to try its absorption of moisture, when it is taken out and tested for strength again. If on this second and most severe trial it falls short of the strength of the Government powder by even throwing its shot six inches less the whole is rejected. All these experiments are carried on some 500 yards away from the magazines, and are, of course, conducted with the utmost care. Still, it is much to be wished that they could be done somewhere else, and, above all, that the examining-house was far away, instead of, as now, close to the magazine. As a matter of course, the loading and shipment of powder goes on every day at Purfleet. On Wednesday week a barge was laden with 800 barrels and sent away. This loading with such a quantity conclusively proves one of two things—namely, that Mr. James, the harbour-master of the port of London, knew nothing of the subject when he stated in his evidence at the Belvedere inquiry that 700 barrels are an illegal load; or, on the other hand, that the law as to the number of barrels is so little regarded that even the Government habitually transgress it. 600, 700, and 800 barrels, and even more, are not an uncommon load to arrive at Purfleet. Powder-barges arriving at Purfleet are never left alongside the wharf till their lights and fires are out, which again shows that even the Government authorities recognise the use of lights and fires on board these craft. But no loading or unloading of powder is ever permitted at Purfleet unless at the hands of the Government powder men themselves. The crews are always removed from the barges at once, and have a place regularly assigned to them outside the magazines, where there is a cookhouse and where they can smoke. No barge, if it can possibly be avoided, is allowed to remain at the wharf all night. If, however, it should be compelled to remain, the crew are brought on board at nine o'clock, and have to turn in in the dark. When the powder is all on board and secured below, the barge is removed to a buoy in the river about 300 yards from the magazine. While at this buoy the crew can have their lights and fires, whether there is powder on board or not; yet an accident happening to a powder-barge with 800 barrels on board at only 300 yards' distance from the magazine would be the same as if it happened in the magazine itself. In this respect, and in this respect only, do the precautions at Purfleet appear less than they should be in the face of the tremendous havoc which would follow on any casualty. What would be the effect of an explosion at Purfleet it is almost impossible to conceive as regards its damage to the river and the surrounding neighbourhood. What its effect would be in London may be approximately calculated by a consideration of the chemical rules relating to the explosion of gunpowder, and according to which the metropolis would certainly fare badly.

Two thousand tons of powder would occupy 75,000 cubic feet of space, or equal to a pile 100 ft. long, 40 ft. wide, and 20 ft. high—quite the size of an ordinary parish church. As powder at the moment of its explosion exerts an elastic force of 1000 times the pressure of the atmosphere (15,000 lb. to the square inch), the ignition of this quantity would instantaneously liberate a force equal to 11,000,000 tons. As the vibrations of force radiate equally in all directions, like those of light and heat, it necessarily follows that its intensity diminishes in proportion as the circle of its radiation increases in diameter. Thus, taking the direct distance from London to Purfleet as sixteen miles, an explosion taking place at the latter magazine would by the time it reached town be distributed over 10,000,000,000 square yards of surface, and therefore the mechanical effect of the shock to the houses in London would be a little over 3 lb. per square yard of surface, or 220 lb. on the front of an ordinary average dwelling-house. This would be augmented to a slight extent from the fact that the power of the shock would not radiate downwards, in consequence of the earth, and would react in other directions. The quantity of powder exploded at Erith on the occasion of the late catastrophe was 101,000 lb., or 1733 cubic feet; this, probably, produced a force of 800,000 tons, and this, radiating to London, was spread over a space of 5,600,000,000 square yards, and reduced its effective force on the houses of the metropolis to about 6 oz. per square yard. It may seem surprising to many that this small force should have been so distinctly felt; but when it is remembered that a very few pounds exerted in banging a door will give rise to a very severe feeling of concussion in most houses, the surprise will cease. The pressure which would be exerted upon the houses of the metropolis by an explosion at Purfleet of 3 lb. or 4 lb. per square yard would probably be sufficient to break most windows facing in its direction, and houses would feel the shock very severely; for, though the pressure would not be more than that specified above, the wave of force arising from such a quantity of powder would be of great duration. Gravesend and Woolwich would probably be completely unroofed, and Erith vanish into air.

**WELLS AT POMPEII.**—All the wells hitherto discovered in the ruins of Pompeii have been dry. Lately one was found in a house called that of the marble dealer. It is circular, very deep, in good preservation, and contains fresh and limpid water. An analysis of the water has been made by M. de Lucan and communicated to the Academy of Sciences. The atmosphere of the well when discovered was not supportable, owing to the carbonic acid gas. A dog was let down for a few moments, but became nearly suffocated, and was only saved by being drawn up immediately. The workmen could only descend to a certain distance, beyond which their light was extinguished. After the vitiated atmosphere had been replaced by the outer air a pill was let down, and the water brought up was clear and of a temperature of 10 deg. centigrade (50 Fahr.), while that of the external atmosphere was 18 centigrade (65 Fahr.). The water was excellent, but with a slightly acous taste. On being applied to the test-paper a slight alkaline reaction was visible, owing to the carbonate of potash, which could be easily transformed into cream of tartar. In this respect the water is very like that of the well of Grenelle.

**FALLING STARS.**—At the last sitting of the Academy of Sciences, at Paris, a letter was read from Father Secchi, of Rome, on the falling stars of August last. It being now generally admitted that these phenomena are nothing but meteors like those which fall upon our earth, Father Secchi, starting from the supposition that they cannot become luminous until they pass from the general vacuum into our atmosphere, concluded that, if by means of two simultaneous observations from two different stations the exact instant were determined at which a shooting star becomes luminous, the altitude of our atmosphere might be ascertained. He accordingly selected Rome and Civita Vecchia for the two stations, M. Sabatti being the observer at the latter place, where, however, fewer shooting stars were seen than at Rome. Admitting as possible errors of from one to two degrees, a series of results were obtained varying from between forty and 250 kilometres; whence Father Secchi concludes that the real altitude of our atmosphere must be about 200 kilometres, at which elevation there must be a density of air sufficient to produce upon the meteorite a pressure calculated to render it luminous.





OPENING OF THE NEW PARK AT FARNWORTH, NEAR BOLTON.

**OPENING OF THE PUBLIC PARK AT FARNWORTH.**

THE inauguration of the public park at Farnworth, and the visit of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, last week, produced much bustle and excitement in the neighbourhood; not only in Farnworth, but in Bolton and a number of other places within a circuit of several miles. The day was observed as a holiday, most of the shops being closed, and the inhabitants turning out to witness the proceedings at Farnworth. A procession was formed, which started from the Local Board Office in Farnworth about half-past ten, but did not reach the park till nearly two o'clock, having perambulated almost every street in the town. The park is the gift of Mr. Barnes, one of the members for Bolton, and is situated a couple of miles from that borough. It is between eleven and twelve acres in extent, and is said to be worth about £3000. It has been open for the use of the public for some three years past, but has never been formally inaugurated, in consequence of some difficulties as to the

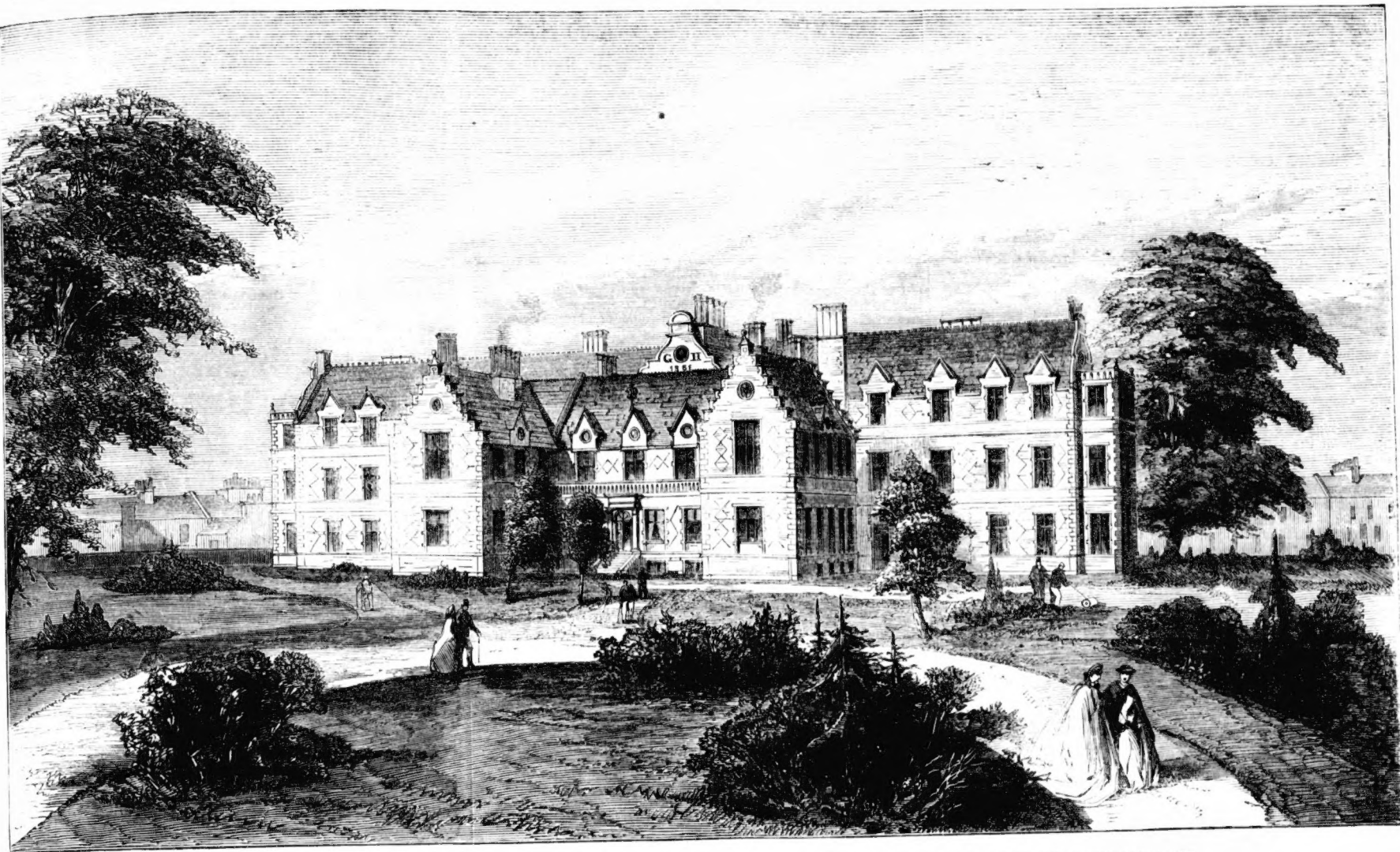
proper local authorities to whom it should be transferred. The ceremony of the inauguration was commenced by the children of the Sunday-school singing the "Old Hundredth," after which Mr. Barnes, M.P., advanced to the front of the platform, and, amidst loud cheers, formally bestowed the park on the township of Farnworth for all time coming. Mr. A. Barnes, chairman of the local board of Farnworth, accepted the generous gift on behalf of the community. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the course of a very eloquent speech inaugurating the park, said:—"This presentation by Mr. Barnes is, happily, not an isolated act. It is part of a great system, part of a great movement; he is indeed the representative, and the honourable representative, of a principle and a tendency which is among the very best characteristics of the age. In this busy, stirring, critical, industrious, enterprising, money-making, money-accumulating age, though it is well that while these pursuits have full scope given them, it should not be forgotten that there are other wants and other interests; and in particular I call Mr. Barnes, on this

occasion, the representative of a deep and growing conviction with respect to the relation that ought to prevail, and that happily now to a very great extent does prevail, between the employer of labour and the labouring population of the land." The right hon. gentleman then went on to dilate on the improvements which had of late years been made in the condition of the working classes, on the greater degree of cordiality and kindness which subsisted between them and their employers (mainly brought about, he said, by the general recognition of the maxim that property has its duties as well as its rights) and on the benefits—physical, moral, and intellectual—which free access to such a park as that which had just been conferred upon the people of Bolton, was calculated to produce. He was frequently applauded in the course of his oration, and its conclusion was the signal for several rounds of enthusiastic cheers. The whole proceedings passed off with great success, and seemed to give immense satisfaction to the people of the district.



THE PROPHET ISAIAH.—(FROM THE MOSAIC DESIGNED BY STEVENS, IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL)



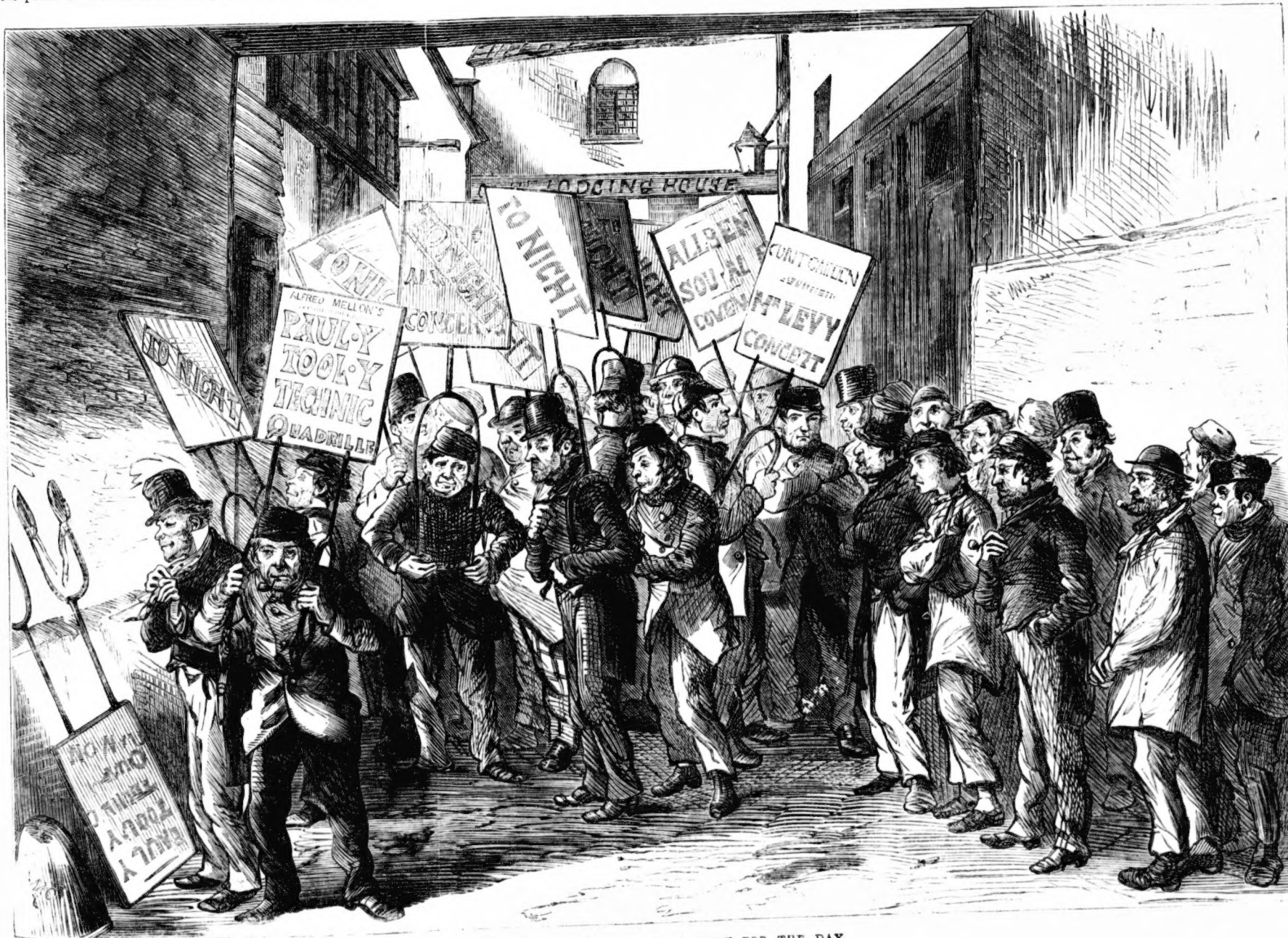


THE MOSAIC AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

Mr. Alfred Stevens, an artist of undoubted ability, and known to the public as the successful competitor for the Wellington monu-

Naturally, in a composition where variety is closely circumscribed within arbitrary limits there is little scope for the play of imagination,

The chief interest centres in the beauty and power of delineation shown in the principal figure. In this respect all praise is due to Mr. Stevens for the simplicity of the action, and the vigour, delicacy, and nobility of the design. The colouring is well chosen—Isaiah being clothed in a blue tunic, with a red cloak which rests on his knees. The pose, while it does not lack grace, suggests vigorously the intensity of the feeling, and contrasts cleverly with the heavenly tranquillity of the angels, whose faces are conceptions of considerable beauty. The gold ground of the picture, with a simple and effective border, gives richness to the entire work, and is



THE MEN IN IRONS GOING ON DUTY FOR THE DAY.



very suitable to the style of ornamentation required in such a position.

It would hardly be fair, while speaking of the work as a success, to omit mention of one to whose executive ability much of the triumph is due. Signor Salviati, a Venetian artist in mosaic has performed his portion of the labour well, and appears to have carried out the design with great spirit and artistic appreciation.

We trust that the work of decoration will be carried on without delay, and accept with pleasure this instalment of it as a sample of a style of ornamentation which will afford us just reason to be prouder than ever of the noble old pile, whose external grandeur already commands our admiration.

#### OPENING OF THE NEW GERMAN HOSPITAL, DALSTON.

ON Saturday afternoon last the ceremony of formally declaring the new German Hospital at Dalston to be open took place—his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, president of the hospital, performing the chief part in the programme. There was a large number of ladies and gentlemen present to witness the proceedings, which were of an interesting character.

The new hospital is built to contain one hundred beds, besides the medical and other officers' rooms, and a sanitarium to accommodate eight or ten private patients who will pay. The building, which is well situated in a sanitary point of view, consists of two blocks, connected by a corridor. The southern and larger of the two contains the wards for the ordinary patients. These are spacious, lofty, airy, light, and well ventilated; and all requisite offices, nurses' rooms, store-rooms, bath-rooms, and scullery-rooms, are conveniently distributed, in proximity to the several wards. The chapel, a commodious apartment, is at the east end. Surmounting the communion-table is a stained-glass window in memory of the late Prince Consort, presented by Mr. J. Rahles, a member of the board of management. The basement is well laid out. In the smaller block, divided from the general wards by a corridor, are the rooms of the chief officers of the hospital and the sanitarium-rooms. In the entrance-hall are waiting-rooms, and the walls are to have enamelled slate slabs inscribed with the names of benefactors. All the arrangements of the building are in the newest and best style, and substantiality and commodiousness have been consulted rather than ornamentation. The architect is Professor Donaldson, with whom, as a colleague, was Mr. Edward Grüning; and the contractors were the Messrs. L'Anson. In the spacious yard are sheds and all the necessary outbuildings.

Shortly after half-past two his Royal Highness arrived, and was received at the entrance to the old hospital by the gentlemen forming the board of management and the chief officers of the institution. These gentlemen escorted his Royal Highness to the new hospital, the band of the Coldstream Guards playing in front. Having arrived, the party proceeded to the chapel, which was crowded with ladies who had manifested a substantial interest in the hospital by making collections towards the funds. The hall and corridor were equally crowded by visitors, who gave his Royal Highness a respectful reception. In the chapel, which was gracefully festooned with evergreens, an harmonious and well-led German choir was assembled, and his Royal Highness having taken his seat, the choir sang a hymn. Then the whole assembly sang, "Now praise ye all our God," and a short service followed. This being concluded, his Royal Highness, accompanied by the vice-president, committee, and officers, made an inspection of the building. The company then assembled in one of the upper wards, where the formal ceremony of declaring the hospital open was gone through. The ward was very tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens, and a handsome raised platform occupied one end. His Royal Highness and party having reached the platform,

Mr. Meinerzhagen, the treasurer, addressed the Duke. Nineteen years ago, he said, his Royal Highness, in opening the old hospital, had performed a similar task to that he had done to-day. During those nineteen years the institution had been singularly blessed through the sympathies and aid of her Majesty, the late Prince Consort, and the father of his Royal Highness. The late King of Prussia, Baron Bunsen, and the late Mr. F. Huth were fast and warm friends of the hospital. In their internal arrangements, too, they were most fortunate. After his Royal Highness, Dr. Walbaum was one of those to whom the hospital was most indebted, and they had had a succession of most devoted medical officers, and the services of the matron and nurses were above all praise. With these advantages they had been able to afford medical and other relief to nearly 200,000 persons, who for the most part depended upon their health for the daily bread of themselves and families. The hospital had therefore done good service. But the number of applicants increased. At first the idea was to add a new ward to the old building, but that was found impracticable. A building fund for a new hospital was originated. Notwithstanding every exertion, however, the committee found themselves the year before last with only about £2500. It was then that their late lamented treasurer, Mr. F. Huth, came forward and gave them a sum of £2500, which completed the amount which it was thought prudent to have in hand before commencing the new building. Other generous friends also contributed, so that at the beginning of last year the sum in hand amounted to £7500. The committee then applied themselves to the project. Mr. Huth selected Professor Donaldson as architect, and a better selection could not have been made. Associated with him was Mr. Edward Grüning, one of their most generous patrons. They had no money to spend in architectural ornamentations; but his Royal Highness, he thought, would agree with the board that the new building was admirably adapted for every purpose of an hospital. The treasurer concluded by reading out the list of collections made for that occasion, and announced amidst applause that they amounted altogether to close upon £1300.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge said it became his duty then formally to open this new building, and in doing so he found little left for him to add to the concise and lucid history of the hospital given by Mr. Meinerzhagen since its opening, nineteen years ago. It was especially to their late lamented friend Mr. Huth that they were indebted for being enabled to meet in that building on the present occasion, and he regretted deeply that their tried friend should not have lived to see the accomplishment of the work that day. There was nothing Mr. Huth had so much at heart as the welfare and prosperity of that hospital. But he had left to them one who would faithfully follow in his footsteps. His Royal Highness, having paid a compliment to Mr. Meinerzhagen for the assistance he had given, expressed his conviction that that gentleman would carry out the good work which Mr. Huth had begun. As regarded the other gentlemen connected with the institution, the medical officers, the matron, and nurses, he might congratulate those then assembled on the good management, good organisation, and admirable manner in which the hospital had been hitherto directed. He was happy that they had been able to do what had been done; but he was afraid that even yet there was hardly a sufficient sum to defray the cost of erecting the building. He was also afraid that he should always be obliged in addressing them on such occasions to remind them that, the wants of the population around being continually growing, the liberal interest they felt in the hospital could not be permitted to flag. Every day and every year would bring with it an increased demand upon the usefulness of the institution. Considering the list of subscriptions read that day, he thought they had every prospect that support would continue to increase with the wants of the hospital. The collections had been due mainly to the exertions of the ladies, and of course the gentlemen would not be slow to follow the example so set. It only remained for him now to declare that the new German Hospital was open.

This terminated the ceremonial, and as his Royal Highness and party left the room the choir sang a hymn. The band of the Coldstream Guards played in the garden. Subsequently, in the course of the afternoon, the new building was thrown open to all visitors, and a great many persons availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting its very admirable construction and arrangements.

#### ADVERTISING MEDIUMS.

IN an age when the maxims of a former wisdom are superseded by the exigencies of a public which wants money and another public which desires novelty, the only means by which a genuine article can hope to maintain its reputation against the counterfeit is by a persistent repetition of its excellences; and so far from "good wine" metaphorically needing "no bush," it absolutely and imperatively requires an entire tree for a sign—nay, a whole grove of trees leading from the bottom of the high road right up to the inn door. Does any one covet success for a valuable invention, an important discovery, a marvellous specific, a philanthropic scheme, a benevolent purpose, a commodity which needs only to be seen to be appreciated, a well-known article the benefits of which have always been universally recognised, let

him advertise. The busy public are too thoughtless to appreciate the claims of the greatest benefit which is not brought prominently before their notice at least twice in every twenty-four hours. The ingenious public who sell are too well aware of this weakness to leave a chance of success to anybody who does not avail himself of prominent places, large type, effective posters, and all the other accessories of modern commerce.

To such proportions has this necessity grown that advertising literature may be said to have taken possession of our streets, and even to have stretched far out beyond the suburbs and into once remote country districts. It is true that the invasion of metropolitan thoroughfares by gigantic painted temples and timber structures, drawn by horses and covered with enormous posters, has been made illegal ever since they culminated in the temple devoted to magic razor paste and the startling announcements of the "monster concerts," a dozen years ago; but, worse than this, every street corner, dead wall, railway bridge, hoarding, empty house front, and even church porch and public monument, is devoted to the purpose of blatant assertions emphatic with fat notes of admiration, impertinent queries to which no one desires to give an answer, or announcements of a maddening character which become aggressive from their continued iteration. In all sorts of out-of-the-way places harmless people who desire nothing better than to be let alone are morally assaulted, questioned, threatened, and generally bullied, by placards of all colours and in every variety of "striking" letter. On the brick arches of far-off canal bridges they are required to answer questions as to personal identity in a way which is to the last degree irritating, by whitewash letters two feet long; on remote park palings they are requested to consider the momentous question, "Why pay rent?" are advertised of the opening of local assemblies for dancing; or, with shocking abruptness, are told where to go for a cheap funeral. Two daily newspapers contend for the widest area of wall and hoarding, with the respective declarations of the largest circulation and the largest size; glowing cartoons and many-coloured devices stare from the sides of unfinished houses, and make themselves emphatic to riders on the outsides of omnibuses, to whom they appeal on behalf of worlds of magic and the great host of "entertainers." Seeking refuge inside a public conveyance, the traveller is no better off, since omnibuses are provided with their own particular advertisements; and nearly framed allusions to tea, teeth, and toys glare down in blue and yellow from the roof. Railway carriages of the second and third class are but advertising vans, in which waterproofing, cheap clothes, and surgical instruments alternate with other less prominent articles in a maze of bewildering variety. Even hansom cabs have recently been chartered by enterprising tradesmen, and a startling announcement in a neat oval border glares menacingly from the splashboard at the surprised "fare," who during a hasty ride is completely under its influence. If any one should innocently suppose that the advertising system is confined to public life he would be mistaken, for an ingenious agent has already adopted the plan of gumming little circular tickets inside the hats, upon hall tables, or in the lobbies at concerts, assemblies, and public dinners. The spills for lighting cigars at taverns are provided gratuitously by an ingenious gentleman who has an interest in the theatre; and we may yet see our butter come home with a sensation announcement marked with an advertising pat on its snowy surface, or our bread delivered with the brand of a new music hall on the top crust.

Amongst the principal advertising mediums, however, the peripatetic "sandwiches," or men bearing boards like tabards upon breast and shoulders, are still the most common, although even amongst them a desire for novelty and the means of attracting increased attention has introduced alterations. It was found that the men who formerly bore posters, like banners, at the end of a pole, were addicted to resting outside remote taverns, or even to leaving their burden while they went to refresh themselves with beer, and some means was sought of rendering the banner a part of the man, so that neither a high wind nor the sudden necessity for beer should separate it from its human ballast. The result has been the invention of iron shoulder-straps, by which the poster, neatly framed, is bound to the unfortunate bearer. Anybody who would see the advertising medium in its primitive simplicity and without the banner, which has become, as it were, a part of his being in public, should go early in the morning to one of the places where he and his fellows assemble to receive their burdens from the hands of the agent who employs them, or of his agent; for in all these things there is a vast amount of "farming;" and out of the medium's shilling a day depend upon it somebody gets three pence. Near the corner of Endell-street, and not far from St. Giles's Church, a large company of these mediums may be seen any morning at nine o'clock congregated at the mouth of a dirty little square of houses, known as Hampshire Hog-yard, where, in a dilapidated tenement which seems to have been subject to the ravages of a fire several years ago and not to have been worth repairing since, the boards and banners of the band are stored. This is the armoury, in fact; and a strange, broken-down, miserable army they are, amongst whom no modern Falstaff even would go for recruits. Surely, such a collection of old, patched and ragged habiliments could not be found even at the "Clothes Exchange" in Houndsditch. One elderly individual rejoices, it is true, in a pink-striped waistcoat—the cast-off morning garment of some smart footman; but he has evidently not long come into the business. For the most part, the banner-bearers are depressed in appearance; and, with their worn, frayed, and incongruous garments, their half-washed faces, and their melancholy listlessness of manner, seem anything but hopeful of the British public, to whom they instrumentally appeal.

The neighbourhood is just waking up by the time they arrive: that is to say, the clinking of a hammer is going on merrily at the farrier's shed down the yard; the door of the common lodging-house has long been open for the egress of the lodgers, some of whom are doubtless amongst this company; the Irish costermongers in the neighbouring street are placing their stalls, and gaily commencing their morning quarrel under the superintendence of three policemen; the hairdresser in the main thoroughfare has taken his shutters down and is briskly ready to shave, wash, and brush hair by machinery at the rate of twopence a head; and even the dog-fancier next door has let in the daylight upon a shaggy white terrier, with red-rimmed eyes, who blinks at the passers-by with the expression of a detected felon. Lounging at the corner of the yard, and scenting the morning air with the odour of their short black pipes, the mediums wait until a messenger arrives with a key to open the magazine, when they go, in melancholy groups, to receive their banners and to assist in harnessing each other to their iron yokes. Another minute, and they are placed in melancholy array, after which they go to their several beats. The "Ixions" being sorted like an animated toy alphabet, the Music Halls being warned not to linger in back streets; and the Theatres, some of them, repairing to the colonnade in Box-street, there to receive fresh devices for the ensigns which they are doomed to bear all day with an interval for such refreshment as they can procure for the few half-pence they have to spare on leg of beef soup or saveloys. Now and then a spirited proprietor will gather together a select corps—a sort of picked body-guard—clothe them in fantastic dresses, and give them strange insignia to bear as a stimulus to public curiosity; but these efforts never last long, and the body-guard itself, after a brief effort to keep their uniforms from inevitable shabbiness, and the substitution of incongruous garments for those with which they are originally provided, is ultimately disbanded, and its members are once more enrolled in the regular corps of "advertising mediums."

ARTIFICIAL TAILS.—A mole-killer of Montney, in the Valais, in Switzerland, was recently brought before the Correctional Tribunal of that place on a charge of swindling the authorities which he effected in an ingenious manner. The destroyers of those animals receive a certain sum for each, but they are not bound to present the bodies in order to obtain the reward, but only the tails. The man in question delivered not less than 2000, and received a sum of 200*l*. Surprise was felt at the number, and on close examination a great many were found to be artificial—manufactured by gumming a strip of the animal's skin on a bit of wire covered with paper. The tailmaker was condemned to three months' imprisonment.

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE Royal English Opera, under the direction of the opera company, has made a good beginning in so far that it has already given several very successful performances of "Masaniello," "Martha" is advertised for to-night, "Masaniello" will be played again on Monday, and on Tuesday Mr. Macfarren's "Helvellyn" will be produced. Several of our contemporaries complain of the work of a French composer having been selected as the first, and that of a Russian composer as the second, to be performed by an establishment which prides itself especially on its thoroughly English character. For our part, we see no harm in this. Our English composers cannot write grander works than "Masaniello," or livelier ones than "Martha;" and any association, limited or unlimited, that endeavoured to maintain itself by producing English operas alone, would have the same fate that a wine company might expect if it offered to the public nothing but British wine. In making this comparison we do mean to say that England has no more claim to be considered a music-producing than she has to be regarded as a wine-growing country; but her music has no reputation abroad, and is not much thought of (not even by the English Opera Company) at home. French music, in spite of the most sedulous fostering on the part of the State, was long in the same position; and even now it can scarcely be said that there is a distinct school of French opera. There are French composers of the Rossini school and French composers of the Meyerbeer school; but, except in some of the least pretentious works of the repertory of the Opéra Comique (which are simply musical developments of the national vaudeville), there are few, if any, French operas that can be pointed to as characteristically French.

As far as we personally are concerned, we do not care very much where an opera comes from provided only it be full of good music; and we would quite as soon hear a new work by Auber or by Gounod, Frenchmen though they be, as one by no matter what English composer. If we were an English composer we should, of course, not talk in this manner (though we have observed that one English composer often fails to admire the masterpiece of another); but, as a member of the great body of the British public, our view of the matter is simply what we have above set forth.

In our opinion, then, it is right and desirable that there should be a theatre for producing opera in the English language—which of course involves the engagement of English singers, or at least of singers able to sing English words; but we think it would be a great and fatal mistake, at such a theatre, to limit the works produced to those written by English composers. In discussing this subject, a great many writers argue as though each country must necessarily have its own composers, as it has its own painters and (above all) its own writers. But Mozart wrote for the Italian stage, Weber wrote "Oberon" for the English stage, Meyerbeer wrote all his great works for the French stage; and no one can say that the masterpieces of these three German composers belong, in an artistic sense, either to Germany or to the countries for which respectively they were in the first instance composed. English composers are entitled, no doubt, to have as fair a chance given to them as to the composers of other countries; and where are they to get this if not in England? This is all that we can admit in their favour. As to a "national school," it is only by stealing or imitating national airs that a composer can give national character to music at all. Thus, Flotow thought to give an English character to "Martha" by introducing an Irish air for the prima donna; and when "Martha" was finished, with its Irish ballad and its English beer-song and popular dances, who would ever have thought that the musical mixture had been prepared by a Russian?

Let the Opera Company bring out as many or as few English operas as it pleases. Its first duty is to bring out operas of merit, by whomsoever they may be written. At the end of a season or two we shall be very much astonished if it will not have given too many rather than too few works by native composers. A prodigious number of operas by English musicians have been produced during the last thirty years; and how many of them remain on the stage? How many, too, have become known out of England? The one really successful opera that has been brought out during the whole of this period is Mr. Balfe's "Bohemian Girl," and the "Bohemian Girl" certainly does not pass for a great work either in England or in any of the many cities on the Continent where it has been played.

The performance of "Masaniello" at the Royal English Opera does not call for any special notice. Everyone knew that Mme. Parepa would sing the music of Elvira to perfection, and that Mr. Weiss would make a very good Pietro. As for the new tenor, Mr. Adams, much had been expected of him, and expectation was not disappointed. He has a fine voice, sings well, and declaims admirably. The part of Fenella, too (the *real* prima donna of the opera), was well mimed by Mdle. Rosa Giraud, a dancer from Paris.

The following analysis of the plot of Meyerbeer's "Africaine," now in rehearsal at the French Opera, has lately been published: Vasco de Gama, returning from his first voyage to Africa, is shipwrecked. Two alone of the negroes are saved—Nelusco, an African traitor, and Celika, ex-Queen of Madagascar. Vasco is condemned by a naval court-martial for having lost his ship, and the sentence is conveyed to him in a piece for eight bass voices (barbarously entitled an "octuor"). This closes the first act. In act 2, Vasco is in prison with the Queen of Madagascar and Nelusco. The latter wishes to kill him during his sleep; but the Queen, who loves Vasco, utters a cry and saves him. In the third act Vasco has obtained permission to return to Africa to pursue his discoveries. Celika is with him; but he is again shipwrecked and thrown on the coast of Madagascar. Here all is changed. Celika is mistress instead of being a slave. Now Vasco shall love her, or she will put him to death. Finally, however, she abandons her plans, and resolves that she must die. She accordingly lies down beneath the deadly shade of the upas-tree and goes to sleep, singing an adieu to Vasco, who, we suppose, is pursuing his scientific investigations in some other part of the island.

There is, at least, originality in this libretto; there is even grotesqueness, judging only from the sketch which we have just laid before our readers. The principal characters seem to be an African traveller, who, like Rousseau at Venice, may be reproached with caring more for mathematics than for female beauty; a malicious nigger; and a Queen of Madagascar—a predecessor, therefore, of that enlightened sovereign who was forced the other day to grant a constitution to her subjects, in which one of the principal articles ran as follows:—"Her Majesty abstains in future from the use of ardent spirits." But music possesses the magic power, especially in the hands of such a magician as Meyerbeer, of raising and transforming whatever subject it may be allied to; and the sorrows of Celika will, doubtless, seem poetical enough to everyone except burlesque-writers resolved beforehand to take a Jim-Crow view of Meyerbeer's African opera.

GUN-COTTON VERSUS GUNPOWDER.—It will take, says Mr. Scott Russell, in the *Quarterly Journal of Science*, twenty-four ounces of gunpowder to break, in mining, a mass of rock that can be broken by four ounces of gun-cotton. But the glory of gun-cotton has hitherto been confined to its achievements as a burster. For the modern ed service of propelling a shot, it has been tamed but lately by Major-General Lenk, of the Austrian service, who has produced it in a safe form, not six, but three, times more powerful than gunpowder. Thus used in war, the advantages of gun-cotton over gunpowder are said to be many. A third of the weight suffices; it does not foul the gun, but leaves only a slight dew of condensed steam; and it explodes without smoke. Thus, the smoke of battle will become a tradition of the past, when gun-cotton shall have been generally adapted to the use of the armies. The smoke of gunpowder not only obscures sight, but it is a compound of noxious fumes that make their effects felt in cements of fortresses, or between decks of ships. To get rid of the smoke and of the excessive heat of quick firing in such situations, is to double the force of the fighting men by doubling their power of standing unexhausted by their guns. You must keep your powder dry, but you may wet your gun-cotton; for which dried it is undamaged. Major-General Lenk has perfected the mechanism for producing gun-cotton in several forms. The simple form is that of a continuous straight yarn of given weight to the yard, sold on reels.—*All the Year Round*.







